



Visitor hub to be door for area's attractions

A TOURIST information centre directing thousands of visitors to the attractions of Dudley will open later this year.

The hub, dubbed the 'front door' to the Black Country, will be located on a new 600-space car park close to the town centre and will be staffed.

The car park is being built on land between Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust. It is expected to open in the Spring, along with the Visitor Arrival Hub.

The parking and hub are part of a £10 million plan to regenerate Castle Hill and better link the town's attractions.

Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "This is part of our drive to make the town the capital of the Black Country."

"It will be a core point between the three main attractions while also providing a hub to promote other activities and tourism in the area."

The hub will be somewhere visitors can pick up information leaflets and maps. It may also sell tickets. New signs, seats and message boards will also be put up around Castle Hill. A new exit from Dudley Zoo is being created next to The Fellows pub.

Waste plan withdrawn

PLANS for a controversial waste plant in Brierley Hill were withdrawn just hours before a decision was due to be made on the scheme by Dudley councillors.

Clean Power withdrew its planning application for the facility proposed for on land off Moor Street. It was due to be considered by Dudley Council's development control committee meeting on December 22.

The plan has been opposed by community campaigners with almost 900 letters of objection.

SEVEN STARS PUB VICTORY

A POPULAR Sedgley pub has been saved after a plan to turn it into a supermarket was rejected by Dudley councillors.

Relieved campaigners embraced as applause rippled around the Dudley Council chamber after the application to convert the Seven Stars, in Gospel End Road, was defeated.

More than 100 letters of objection were submitted to the council while a petition set up by a campaign group gained 1,500 signatures.

Some 400 also joined the Save the Seven Stars Facebook group for the popular hostelry.

Joyous residents sounded a note of caution, however, saying they fully expect the decision to be appealed.

Many had thought the battle was lost after the council's planning officers recommended the plan for approval.

Congratulations

Experts had said the proposal to turn the building into a Morrisons store was suitable, despite fears over traffic and the loss of a much-loved pub.

Representatives from the pub's owners Marston's also called on councillors to follow the recommendations.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who had campaigned to save the Seven Stars, said: "Congratulations to the local campaigners who have done a brilliant job in campaigning for their community pub."

"I'm really pleased I was able to help and it just goes to show what local campaigners can achieve when we all work together. I'll continue working with campaigners to make sure the pub's future is secure."

By Andrew Turton

UKIP councillor Bill Etheridge, who was also fiercely opposed to the supermarket plan, was delighted with the decision.

He made an impassioned plea to the planning committee to reject the scheme at the start of the meeting.

Councillor Etheridge said: "I am absolutely delighted with the decision. It is a win for the community over the corporate dollar."

Asked about the possibility of an appeal, Councillor Etheridge remained defiant.

"We will win," he said. "People in Sedgley are united on this. We won't buckle."

UKIP leader Nigel Farage visited the pub for a pint in the summer and voiced his support for the campaign to save it.

Campaigner Zoe Huddleston, who lives nearby in South View Road, said: "It's fantastic. Halfway through, I wasn't sure what the outcome was going to be."

"I use the pub with my family and my partner has been going in there for 20 years. There are no other pubs like it in Sedgley"

She added that local people would keep a watch for Morrisons trying again, saying: "We as a community don't want it and will fight until the end."

I'm feeling lucky, says transplant nan



Rachel Day, 39, faces a potential second liver transplant but counts herself lucky

A MOTHER-OF-FOUR who underwent Christmas Day surgery on her failing liver eight years ago faces having a second transplant.

Rachel Day, 39, of Priory Road, Dudley, will need another liver because the main artery supplying the organ is no longer functioning.

The defiant grandmother has pledged to fight on, saying she feels luckier than most. She had her first transplant on Christmas Day, 2006, due to autoimmune liver disease. She said: "I have had a long and rocky road, but I am not a quitter. I fight on. I don't let it get me down for the simple reason that I am a lucky person."

She is not on the list to receive a second liver and no action will be taken until her health declines to the extent that another transplant is necessary. She is on a cocktail of drugs to help her fight the disease.

Christmas Day remains extra special because she was given a new lease of life on that day by medics at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

She recently received the good news that her daughter Michaela, 18, had given birth to baby Leon. Her 20-year-old son Andrew became a dad in June.

"The doctors said at some point my body will start to shut down again and then the only option will be another liver transplant. But I have a lot to be thankful for. I never thought I'd be a nan," she said.

High hopes Waterfront will have a revival

SEVEN companies are in talks over relocating to a canalside business centre under a council-run regeneration scheme.

The Dudley Business Investment Zone was launched at the Waterfront in Brierley Hill in a bid to fill up empty office space and create jobs. One company, Commercial Express, has already moved to the area under the scheme, which offers a two-year break in rates.

Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe revealed seven more firms were in talks with the council over relocating to The Waterfront.

Built on the site of the former Round Oak steelworks, The Waterfront boomed in the 1980s but has since suffered from companies moving away.

Councillor Lowe said: "The Waterfront is Dudley's version of Brindley Place in Birmingham. What we have got to do is look again at how we can find a good mix between business and residential. The setting is exceptional."

"I think we would accept the thriving days of the mid 80s have gone and it has recently become a little tired which is why we are looking to turn that round. We have one business and potentially seven more. I think there are positive days ahead."

MP calls for fair fuel price

A DUDLEY MP has demanded action over what he has called 'rip off' fuel prices. Dudley North's Ian Austin has demanded to know why a fall in the price of crude oil is not being reflected at the pumps.

The MP quoted figures stating petrol cost 99p per litre in 2009 at a time when a barrel of oil cost around \$70, but petrol has been at 115p per litre despite a fall in the price of oil to \$59.

Mr Austin has written to Chancellor George Osborne.



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Ban for motorist who punched warden

A MOTORIST who chased a parking warden before knocking him unconscious with a punch to the head has escaped an immediate jail sentence. Jason Robert Pearce carried out the attack after he was given a ticket for leaving his car on double yellow lines while at a take-away in Dudley town centre.

The 43-year-old then drove after the 47-year-old warden, before get-

ting out his car and punching him on the back of his head, knocking the warden unconscious on the floor. He fled before ambulance crews arrived to treat the victim for a cut to his head.

After pleading guilty to assault, Pearson, of The Straits in Lower Gornal, was given a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

He has also been given a three-month driving ban and must carry out 180 hours community service and pay £400 compensation to the victim for the attack that took place on October 11.

Pearce had been warned twice to move his car before receiving the penalty notice and was abusive to the warden.

Speaking after the hearing, Dud-

ley Council transport boss Councilor Khurshid Ahmed said: "This was an appalling attack on one of our officers who was simply doing his job.

"The offender was given the opportunity on two occasions to move his car which was parked on double yellow lines but not only chose to ignore the warnings but he then went on to assault the officer. We will not tolerate this kind of behaviour."

Tributes to pensioner killed in road tragedy

TRIBUTES have been paid to a pensioner who died after being knocked down while crossing the road in Kingswinford.

Moira May Coulson, aged 75, from Swindon, was struck by a white Ford Focus near to West Bromwich Building Society on Market Street.

Paramedics treated her at the scene of the accident and she was taken to hospital where she died.

PM led the tributes to Tory MEP

TRIBUTES have been made for West Midlands Conservative Euro MP Philip Bradbourn, who has died aged 63. The MEP, who was born in Tipton, had been diagnosed with bowel cancer earlier this year.

He was re-elected t in May, prior to his diagnosis. Politicians who paid tribute to Mr Bradbourn, included Prime Minister David Cameron, who said: "Philip's dedication to public service was truly admirable; he was a well-respected and effective MEP.

"In a political career which spanned over four decades, he showed great passion in serving both the party and his constituents."

Service

Born in 1951, Mr Bradbourn was educated at Tipton Grammar School and then at Wulfrun College and Worcester College. He joined the Conservative Party in 1969 and had been a town planning officer in local government for more than 20 years before becoming an adviser to the Conservative group on Wolverhampton City Council. In 1994, he was awarded an OBE for his public and political service.

Mrs Coulson, who had lived in the village for 40 years, leaves a husband and a daughter.

Her devastated family said she was an active member of the local church and the Women's Institute.

In a statement released by police, they said: "Moira had lived in the village for over 40 years and was well known for helping out at church and village events, as well as being a member of the Women's Institute."

The road was closed while emergency services were at the scene of the accident on Saturday at around 10am with vehicles being diverted via Manor Park and Park Street.

The driver was spoken to by officers, police said.

Appeal

Shoppers and staff at nearby stores had gone to the aid of Mrs Coulson who they said was crossing the road between Heron Foods and the building society when she was hit by the car. Sergeant Paul Hughes, from West Midlands Police's Collision Investigation Unit, urged people who saw the collision to get in touch.

"The family of the lady have been informed and specialist officers continue to liaise with them at this sad time."

Anyone with information is urged to call West Midlands Police on 101 or anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

James on course for success



Beating players twice his age — rising star on the local golf scene, James Ilsley, aged 9

A NINE-YEAR-OLD golfer from Sedgley, who aims to emulate the achievements of his heroes Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods, is his club's junior golfer of the year after competing against youngsters twice his age.

James Ilsley, of Sedgley Hall Avenue, picked up a club for the first time when he was aged four. Five years on he is already competing against golfers aged 17 and 18.

The youngster is achieving par scores on holes between 400 and 500 yards in length. Now he has received the junior golfer of the year trophy from Dudley Golf Club in

recognition of the progress he has made. Through determination and practice, James has seen his handicap reduce from 50 when he first started to 36 now.

The youngster, who represents the West Midlands League Team, has already won seven trophies, despite only starting to play competitively 12 months ago. He has no trouble completing an 18 hole course.

His mother Samantha Russell said: "He is beating other golfers aged up to 18." He has received coaching from professional Darren Prosser at Kingswinford Golf Centre.

Victim of acid attack wants a fresh start

A WOMAN left scarred by an acid attack wants to begin a fresh start away from the Black Country in a bid to escape horrific memories.

Vikki Horsman spent five days in intensive care and required months of treatment but still bears the scars of the attack planned by her jealous elderly ex-lover Mohammed Rafiq. The 80-year-old had paid Steven Holmes, 25, and Shannon Heaps, 23, to throw the sulphuric acid over her on a doorstep in Tividale. The three were jailed for a combined total of 44 years for their roles in the attack at MacDonald Close on April 15.

Mr Nigel Stelling, prosecuting, referred to a witness impact statement made by Miss Horsman, aged 19 at the time. He said: "It has undermined her confidence, she is uneasy about being alone, regularly having to stay with relatives for comfort and support. She speaks of wanting to make a fresh start away from the area."

Rafiq, of Chester Road, Smethwick, was sentenced to 18 years. Holmes, of Allan Close, Smethwick, who was paid £50 for the attack and acutally threw the acid, was jailed for 14 years and Heaps, of Queens Avenue, Tividale, for 12 years.

Bedsit action wins praise

A DUDLEY Council operation cracking down on rogue landlords has been highly commended at an awards ceremony in London.

The 'problem properties programme' run in conjunction with West Midlands Police tackles Dudley landlords who have sub-divided properties in multiple bedsits without necessary consents.

Council enforcement officers are working with benefit fraud, building control and private sector housing teamson the initiative, which was highly commended at the inaugural Planning Awards.

Thriller on screen

THRILLER Before I Go To Sleep, based on a novel by Stourbridge author SJ Watson, will be screened at 1.30pm at Stourbridge Town Hall on January 19.

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Rubbish lands man with £365 court bill

A MAN has landed a £365 court bill after waste from his home was found on land near to Cradley Town football ground.

The rubbish was spotted on land near to the football ground in Beeches View Avenue, Cradley, in May 2014. It was traced back to the address of Richard Cochrane, at Kingsway, Wollaston.

The 28-year-old admitted he had paid a friend £160 to take the waste for him, believing he would dispose of it properly.

Magistrates gave him a conditional discharge for six months and ordered him to pay £150 compensation as well as £200 towards the clean-up costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Dudley Council issued a stark warning to people to make sure they only employ a licensed waste carrier when arranging for rubbish to be removed.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We work hard to keep this borough clean and tidy and thankfully, most people share this view and dispose of their waste properly. It is very important when people are getting rid of large amounts of rubbish that they get someone who is properly licensed to do it."

Shooting at a family home

A MAN was shot in the stomach after three masked men burst into his home in Tipton and demanded money. Five other people, including a baby, were in the house at the time.

The 22-year-old man was taken to hospital following the shooting in Turton Road on December 19. None of the others in the house at the time of the attack were hurt. The raiders demanded money but left empty-handed.

Anyone with information can contact the investigators on 101 or alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Smash hurts two

A WOMAN was cut free from her car and taken to hospital following a three-car smash in Dudley. A car, a van and a 4x4 collided near to the Black Country Living Museum in Tipton Road at about 5.50pm on December 19. The male van driver was also taken to hospital.

Father-to-be was going too fast to avoid car



Ashley Silvester, aged 20

A FATHER-TO-Be died when his motorcycle crashed into a car as it pulled out of a junction, an inquest heard.

Investigators concluded Ashley Silvester, aged 20, of Wordsley, was unable to avoid contact with the silver BMW due to the speed he was travelling at.

Although they were unable to say how fast he was going in New Street, just yards from where he lived, they said CCTV footage had showed him travelling at excessive speed in the 30mph zone.

Mr Silvester was seen riding up New Street before turning around and going back in the opposite direction before the collision.

The BMW driver's view was obstructed by parked cars and, as he edged out of Manor Road, he collided with the motorcycle.

Mr Silvester was thrown from the bike and hit a nearby van. Senior coroner Zafar Saddique said it was the injuries caused by hitting the van which proved to be fatal.

He was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham after the

crash at 7.20pm on July 5 but died four days later.

The former Ridgewood High School pupil had found out only weeks before that he was going to become a father. He worked at Furmanac in Kingswinford where he made mattresses.

A statement by forensic investigator PC Paul Robbins, which was read out at the inquest, said: "The motorcycle had right of way but the BMW slowly pulled out, which was reasonable in the circumstances. Had the motorcycle have been trav-

elling at a slower speed it is unlikely to have been an issue, both could have reacted to each other's presence."

Mr Saddique said: "Because of the excess speed Mr Silvester didn't have time to react, colliding with the vehicle."

He recorded a verdict of death as a result of a road traffic collision.

His girlfriend Olivia Taylor, said after Mr Silvester's death: "He was so looking forward to the birth of his child. He was so excited."

Traffic lights will cause daily road chaos, warns MP

KEEPING traffic lights near the site of a new housing development in Sedgley will lead to traffic chaos, an MP has warned.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has called on highway chiefs to scrap plans to make traffic lights a permanent fixture in Gospel End Road.

He said he had been contacted by furious motorists using the route complaining they were being made to wait in tail-

backs for up to an hour.

Staffordshire County Council has insisted the traffic lights are needed at the junction and said it expects traffic flow to improve once the permanent lights are up and running.

The temporary lights have been placed at the entrance to a development site on which 170 homes are currently being built on the former Baggeridge Brickworks, off Fir Street.

Commute

Mr Austin said: "Residents who use Gospel End Road have told me that temporary lights have added as much as an hour to their daily commute. They have now been told that the lights will be made permanent, threatening to create traffic chaos in the area. I'll be pushing for an end to disruption on the road."

Mark Deaville, Staffordshire County Council's highways chief, said: "The permanent traffic light system we have been commissioned to provide will be much more sophisticated than the temporary lights used at the moment to keep construction staff and commuters safe."

"We are confident that once the permanent lights are in place to ensure safety, in line with the planning permission from South Staffordshire Council, road users will see a noticeable improvement."

Student Zara has designs on bike safety



Zara Richards with Simon Strong, manager at Halfords Merry Hill, and fellow pupils from St Mary's Primary

A STUDENT has won a UK-wide competition to design a bike helmet.

Zara Richards, from Quarry Bank, a pupil at Thorns Community College, saw off fierce competition in a search by bike shop Halfords.

They were looking to find the best designed helmets that incorporated safety, innovation and creative flair.

The competition, which was part of Halfords' summer Gear Up workshops, aimed to encourage and give more than 12,000 pupils in their final years of primary school independ-

ence to cycle to their new school. It was Zara's captivating design, which featured built-in night vision goggles and an air conditioning system, that saw her chosen as one of the regional winners.

Zara, aged 11, who was a pupil at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Brierley Hill when she entered the competition, won a bike and cycle accessories, as well as helmets for other pupils.

She said: "I am delighted to have a brand new bike from Halfords and I

cannot wait to start riding it. I really enjoyed designing the helmet. It was great fun and it made me realise that I have a hidden talent."

Community and CSR manager at Halfords, Emma Thomas, said: "It was great to see all of the creative designs that all of the pupils came up with for their helmets for the future. Our panel of judges had their work cut out to decide the winner."

During the workshops pupils learned about the basics of bike maintenance and safety from Halfords.

Car park scheme ready to progress

A NEW multi-storey car park for Dudley is still on the cards, with a planning application to be lodged within months.

Dudley Council first unveiled plans for the 250-space car park in Tower Street last March and now transport cabinet member, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said a planning application was due to be submitted next month. He explained delays to the scheme had been caused by groundwork at the site where designers were considering whether to make one level underground.

More are in work across the district

THERE has been a drop in the jobless figure in Dudley thanks to pre-Christmas work in stores and at delivery companies.

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the district fell by 389 on the previous month's figure, down to 5,880, figures from the Office for National Statistics reveal.

Across the West Midlands as a whole, unemployment fell by 14,000 to 187,000 between August and October.

One in five were speeding in Lye

ONE in five motorists were caught speeding on a road in Lye during a recent police operation.

Officers used a camera to monitor the speed of 72 vehicles in Bagley's Road at the junction of Waterfall Road in November.

A total of 58 motorists were driving within the 30 mph limit but 14 were found speeding.

Police say appropriate action was taken.

Person cut free from car in crash

A PERSON was cut free from a car and taken to hospital following a two-car smash in Dudley.

Fire crews were called to Limepit Lane just after 5pm on December 21.

Three people had managed to get out of the vehicles before crews arrived but one person was assisted by firefighters and taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

From pub to pizza

PLANS to convert a Dudley pub into a pizza takeaway have been lodged.

The proposals for The Struggling Man in Salop Street have been submitted to Dudley Council by Papa Johns.

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THE most important thing, declared one earnest radio reporter, was not to make any assumptions in the early stages of the hostage crisis. There seemed a desperate, politically-correct desire to avoid mentioning Muslims or Islamic terrorism. But when a wild-eyed bearded man with a black bandana unfurls a black flag covered with Islamist slogans in Sydney, I think we can safely assume it's not Ned Kelly.

ON several occasions the TV cameras had a clear view of Man Haron Monis. Police snipers could presumably have had the same view. The civilised Western response to such incidents is to avoid using force until mass murder seems imminent. Maybe it's time for a new strategy: if you have a clear shot, take it.

IN the aftermath, poor Australia should not be beating itself up over why a deranged Islamist with a string of convictions was at liberty. There is only one perfect, proven system for spotting lone loonies doing something manic. It is called hindsight.

MORE horrors of inflation. At an English Heritage shop I found a penny whistle for £15.

GEORGE Osborne has missed a trick. The price of oil is tumbling and looks like staying low for many months to come. If the Chancellor had slapped 2p on a litre at a time like this, motorists would hardly have noticed. Osborne could have slipped a few billion into the nation's coffers with virtually no pain. (Keep this to yourselves, right?)

A CITY executive who dodged £43,000 in rail fares has been banned from any senior job in the financial services industry. So far, so good. But don't you wonder how many City high flyers are still at their desks on telephone-number salaries, having gambled away the sort of sums where £43,000 barely registers as small change? OUT walking, we stopped at the local corner shop for some traditional sweets to keep the chill at bay. Back in pre-decimal times did any of us, in our wildest dreams, imagine that one day we would pay 12 shillings for a bag of herbal tablets?

WE went to a Christmas performance of The Messiah. It is usually an uplifting event but I found it hard to concentrate on Handel's soaring celebration of "God upon his great white throne," the God of Abraham and Moses, without thinking of the unspeakable evil committed, only a few hours earlier in Sydney and Pakistan, in the name of the same God. Religions preach division, separation and supremacy. We are the blessed, the chosen ones or the followers of the true prophet and all the others are heathens, heretics, goyim, kuffir or the wrong sort of Muslim. The divisive creed of Them and Us is not an unfortunate side-effect of religions but their defining message. It is bizarre, in a modern society founded on the belief that all people are created equal, that we allow the preaching of such stuff in the name of "faith" and then throw up our hands in horror at the images from a school in Peshawar or a cafe in Sydney.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Ring and ride jobs are under threat

UP to 90 Ring and Ride jobs may be lost after its budget was slashed, although bosses vowed to maintain the same level of service for passengers.

Earlier this year Centro, the authority that oversees transport in the West Midlands, announced £7 million of budget cuts are on the way to cope with cuts in the levy it gets from local authorities.

As part of the cuts, £700,000 has been slashed from the budget of West Midlands Special Needs Transport (WMSNT), which operates the Ring and Ride service across Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

About 22,000 people use the service, which offers door-to-door transport for the elderly and dis-

abled unable to use buses, trams and trains.

Unite union regional officer Caren Evans said some 50 drivers and 40 schedulers were at risk of redundancy.

"The company has come to the union and we are working together to try and re-deploy staff, offering training," she said. "We are really trying to look at other alternatives

within the company. There are some jobs other people might be able to do, there are options on the table for the members. We understand people are upset about it."

Mrs Evans said an effort would be made to try to minimise the effects of the budget cuts as much as possible but there will be some job losses.

Any changes will take effect on March 30.

Hospital bed blocking at high cost to the NHS

BED blocking is costing the NHS in Dudley around £145,000 a month with patients who are well enough to leave hospital taking up beds on wards.

Health bosses are taking action to tackle the problem and reduce the delays for people waiting to be transferred to a care home.

Bed blocking occurs when patients, often elderly, have to stay in hospital despite being fit to be discharged because they are not well enough to return home and there is nowhere else for them to go.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) says at times there are up to 30 patients who are well enough to leave but have nowhere to go as arrangements have not been made.

In the majority of cases patients were able to return home under the care of their GP and with the support of family and friends. But there are those who need to go to a residential or nursing home and this is when there is a likely to be delay because of assessments and the need to find places.

The total cost to the CCG for is estimated to be £145,228 a month — £1,742,736 a year.

In September, there were 29 patients in Dudley who faced a delayed 'transfer of care' compared with 23 in Wolverhampton and 17 in Walsall.

Dudley CCG chief accountable officer Paul

By Heather Large

Maubach said work was taking place to reduce delays and to prevent people who could be treated in the community being admitted to hospital in the first place.

He said: "Typically each month, in excess of £140,000 of NHS money is spent on patients being in hospital beds who are medically fit to leave. This is just the financial cost, there are other issues to consider, including the experience for the patients and their families; and the additional pressure to services.

"There are many reasons for these delays. It requires the cooperation between health and social care, between hospital and community staff, and between the services and patients and their families to resolve all of the issues. We have worked with partners at the hospital and in social care to agree actions which improve services so that discharges can take place in a more timely fashion."

Paramedics sign up

POTENTIAL paramedics are applying in droves to join the West Midlands Ambulance Service. A total of 130 people applied in the space of two days after the service announced a recruitment drive for an extra 300 paramedics as the service expands its workforce.

Bosses hope the recruits will begin work by September. Chief executive Anthony Marsh said: "As a paramedic you will have one of the most amazing careers; saving lives and helping people in their hour of need." Applications are available online by searching NHS jobs. Applicants do not need to have experience and will be paid as they train.

First female SVR apprentice



Right track — Ryan Parsons, Tom Hubble, Emma Harrison, Alan Brookes and Dean Parkin

IT'S full steam ahead for a teenage girl who has become the first female apprentice to be taken on by Severn Valley Railway.

Emma Harrison, aged 17, is one of five new recruits to the railway's Heritage Skills Training Academy.

Emma said it has fulfilled a lifetime ambition for her due to her love of heritage and steam railways. "It was normal that a family holiday would include at least one trip on a railway and it's still true today," said the Wolverhampton teenager.

Emma said she was continuing a family legacy as her grandfather, who she said inspired her love for heritage engineering, was a member of the Gloucester and Worcester Railway, as well as a supporter of the Severn Valley Railway, along with her grandmother who received a leaflet and passed it on to Emma. She said: "I was extremely happy to get the place."

Joining her are Alan Brookes, of Stourbridge, Tom Hubble, of Birmingham, Dean Parkin and Ryan Parsons.

'Foolish' man was caught with drugs

A MAN from Halesowen caught selling cocaine and heroin on a Brierley Hill street has been locked up for 27 months.

Ian Nock was on a bicycle waiting for a customer to arrive when police swooped in Moor Street on June 12, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 29-year-old had 16 £10 deals of either heroin or crack on him and two mobile phones when searched.

Miss Joanne Barker, prosecuting, said officers later discovered traces of cocaine where drugs had been cut on a dining room table and a dealer's list. Nock told police: "I have not been doing it long but was making £250-a-week."

Miss Barker concluded: "He made a full and frank admission during which he made clear that he was not a drug user and was waiting for someone he was going to sell drugs to."

He said the money he made was used to put food on the table.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, told the court: "Somebody put him up to this. There has been a degree of manipulation of a naive and foolish man."

Nock, of Cross Street, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply.

Police tackle park rowdies

POLICE have increased patrols around a play area in Kingswinford following complaints about youths causing noise disturbance.

Councillor Peter Miller, who represents Kingswinford South, said police were monitoring the situation around the play area in Cot Lane, following an increase in complaints about youngsters behaving 'stupidly'.

He said there had been complaints about noise, adding: "They have just been a nuisance but the police are working on it now and working with the youngsters to try and sort it out."

Glass talk topic

BLACK Country glass heritage will be the subject of a history talk at Stourbridge Library. Charles Hajdamach is giving a talk on Twentieth Century Stourbridge Glass on January 30 in the Amblecote Room at 2.30pm. Admission costs £3. Book on (01384) 812945.

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Dog mess costs pet owner over £400

A DOG walker who allowed his pet pooch to foul on a street near his home has been handed a £415 bill from the courts.

David Walker, of Claycroft Place, Lye, repeatedly ignored letters and requests from Dudley Council after a police officer spotted the 48-year-old allowing his dog to foul in the street in July this year. He failed to clean up after his pet.

Dudley Council sent Walker a £50 fine, which he ignored as well as a reminder letter. He also failed to attend Dudley Magistrates Court but was found guilty in his absence.

Magistrates ordered him to pay £100 fine as well as £295 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "This sends out a clear message that we will not tolerate people who allow their dogs to foul in the street and not clean it up. As part of our Love Your Community initiative, we work closely with communities to keep our streets clean and tidy, and thankfully, the vast majority of people share this view. Clearing up after your dog takes a few seconds but the alternative could leave you with a costly bill."

Work to start on housing

WORK has begun on two multi-million pound housing projects in Dudley.

It is hoped the schemes will help to regenerate to pockets of vacant land at a former council depot on The Walk in Sedgley and at Norfolk Road, Wollaston.

At The Walk, there will be six two-bedroom supported housing apartments and three two-bedroom houses. Plus eight two-bedroom apartments for supported housing.

Dudley Council is investing £2 million to develop both schemes and £385,000 has come from the Homes and Communities Agency.

Choir launching

A NEW community choir is being launched when the Beacon Community Choir rehearse at Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind restaurant at Beacon Court on Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm.

Contact 01902 880111 for more information on joining the choir.

Family 'extremely fortunate' to survive sinking



The Duckmarine sinks

THE sinking of a hybrid bus-boat which left a family of six from Dudley fearing for their lives was the result of poor maintenance and a failure to meet standards, a damning report has found.

The Ellis family's trip on the Yellow Duckmarine in Liverpool ended in terror as the amphibious vehicle sank in the city's historic Albert Docks with 31 people on board.

An investigation has ruled the family from Sedgley were 'extremely fortunate' to have escaped unharmed from a 'potentially fatal'

incident. Nobody was badly hurt but the sinking in June 2013 led to a dramatic rescue operation of terrified tourists from the water as horrified visitors watched.

Those on board the ill-fated vessel included Lauren and Olivia Ellis, aged 11 and seven, their parents Stuart and Claire and grandparents Bill and Susan. The family had travelled to Merseyside to celebrate Bill's 70th birthday.

Bill was hailed a hero after leaping into action, helping dozens of passengers to escape as the vehicle

sank beneath the surface. It was one of two accidents involving amphibious boats, commonly known as Ducks, in the space of three months and the Marine Accident Investigation Branch has now ruled serious failings put lives at risk.

In the other incident, 30 people were evacuated after a craft caught fire on the River Thames in 2013.

The report found the Duck crafts did not have the level of buoyancy foam required and had not been properly approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency when they

were certified to carry passengers in 2000. Passengers and crew were not adequately prepared to deal with an emergency.

In the wake of the sinking, Claire, a financial advisor, said: "There was a lot of screaming and the girls were hysterical. The water got to around knee deep before we were able to climb out."

Grandfather Bill, of Old Barn Road, Wordsley, pulled himself up onto the roof and threw the two life rafts stored there onto the water to help those struggling to swim.

2,000 families in borough faced risk of losing home

ALMOST 2,500 households across Dudley lost their homes or had been at risk of becoming homeless over 12 months.

According to new figures, calls to Dudley Council's help line soared with the homelessness service receiving 2,400 referrals in 2013/14.

Meanwhile, the mortgage arrears advice service in Dudley received 355 calls to help families, up from 185, in 2012.

Crossing is in place to boost safety

WORK on a £1.2million plan to improve pedestrian and bus routes around Merry Hill shopping centre — including a new crossing for shoppers — has been completed.

The crossing on Pedmore Road has been created near the spot where 53-year-old taxman Chris Clarke was knocked down as he walked to work at the nearby HM Revenue & Customs at The Waterfront in April 2013.

Work has also taken place at the junction of The Boulevard and Mill Street to provide priority to buses to make it easier for them to enter and leave the centre.

Some finishing touches, such as the re-planting of embankments and verges, will be carried out at a late date.

Dudley transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "Initial testing around the appropriate timings of the lights will wait until after the busy Christmas period as we do not want to cause any unnecessary inconvenience to shoppers and motorists."

Councillor Alan Finch, who represents Castle and Priory, one of Dudley's most deprived wards, said he believes the economic climate is to blame for the rapidly climbing numbers.

Councillor Finch said: "It is very simple, the economic situation is creating the homelessness issues and referrals. That is the problem, people are really suffering because of the severity of cuts."

Suffering

"In Dudley they are saying we have plenty of work but in my surgeries I see these people and they say there are no jobs, they are suffering."

"It is getting harder and harder to help these people because even the services which are supposed to help them are being cut."

"These are not people on benefits but hard workers who have never taken a handout in their life, which is why they end up on the streets."

According to the council, just over 1,400 of the referrals were for families who were not homeless but were 'at risk', who received advice from the council to prevent them losing their homes.

Just under 400 cases of actual homelessness were dealt with and 150 others who had already lost their homes were owed a re-housing duty.

Football service award for scout



Talent spotter — Jeff Coleman has been awarded an FA Long service medal for his work as a referee and scout

HE is the man responsible for unearthing one of Wolves' rising stars and after half a century in football, Jeff Coleman has been recognised with an FA long service award.

Mr Coleman's career in the game has been split in two very different directions. He spent more than 25 years as a referee in the West Midlands amateur leagues, before turning his attention to scouting with both Wolves and Aston Villa. His first foray into the game came as a school teacher at the start of the 1960s.

"People were always criticising the referee, so I thought if I took a turn as ref, they couldn't criticise me," said the 80-year-old from Sedgley.

He enjoyed the experience so much he decided to continue refereeing until hanging up his whistle in 1989. But through his connections in the game he was able to make the transition from keeping order as the man in the middle to searching for the stars of tomorrow.

It was at Wolves where his scouting career began, towards the end of

Graham Turner's reign as manager. He moved on to Aston Villa, where he spent 18 years as a talent spotter. The most notable gem he unearthed while at Villa was Danny Bath.

He said: "I found Danny at nine years of age playing Sunday football. I took him to Villa, he fell through the net and went to Wolves aged 11."

Mr Coleman left Villa last year but still has an influence in the game, remaining on committees for Wolverhampton City Council and the JW Hunt Midlands cup competition.

Doddy planning a town hall return

VETERAN comedian Ken Dodd will return to Dudley this summer next year.

Tickets have gone on sale for the show at Dudley Town Hall on June 20.

The 86-year-old will be performing his Happiness Show, which usually keeps audiences entertained for more than five hours.

Earlier this year, the comedian expressed his support for campaigners in their fight to save Dudley Hippodrome from the bulldozers.

Tickets for the show cost £19 stalls and £22 balcony. Call 0870 3207000.

Patron for glass heritage charity

A BLACK Country glass charity has appointed a former trustee as its patron. David Williams-Thomas will assume his honorary role with immediate effect, as the figurehead for the British Glass Foundation.

The charity's aim is to protect the glass, archive and technical collections at Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford.

Graham Knowles, Chairman of foundation, said: "David Williams-Thomas enjoys a universal respect within the glass world."

Heat and power plant for hospital

A HEAT and power plant will be built at a hospital to supply around half of its needed electricity.

The system will provide around 20 per cent of the required heating at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

The hospital trust can build the plant after it was given approval by Dudley Council. It will be located in a service area, opposite a staff car park.

Footbridge on route for pupils

A £74,000 project to create a new route through a Dudley conservation site has been completed.

It aims to provide a safe path through Swanbrook Valley for pupils walking and cycling to High Arcal School, Sedgley.

The path stretches from Tipton Road to Rosemary Crescent including a footbridge over Swanbrook.

Pride in matinee

A MATINEE screening of the new film *Pride*, telling the story of gay activists supporting striking miners in 1984, will be held at Stourbridge Town Hall on Monday at 1.30pm. Tickets cost £3.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



ANOTHER Christmas, and more angry customers finding that the 'Winter Wonderland' theme parks do not quite live up to expectations.

Laurence Lewelwyn-Bowen found himself subject to the ire of an army of angry mothers after his Magical Journey in Sutton Coldfield turned out to be more grotty than grotto. Not only was Santa handing out duff presents, his elves were too busy puffing away on cigarettes to bother wrapping them up. And that was when they were not called into action to push the magical mystery train up the hill every time it broke down.

Still, it could have been worse. They could have gone to the Yorkshire Winter Wonderland which, judging from the pictures, looked more like an abandoned POW camp with a few tailors' dummies thrown in to lighten the mood.

Unsurprisingly, both attractions have closed, leaving behind a number of angry customers, but you have to wonder what people really expect. As with all of these attractions, customers are asked to buy into a fantasy land in a far-off corner of the universe that does not really exist. Do they really think it is going to be created in temporary exhibition at a golf course in the West Midlands, or £22.50 a head? Old Laurence really should have known better than getting involved.

The thing is, children can often take pleasure in the simplest of things, and there really is no need to splash out on some overblown commercialised mini-theme park to keep them entertained over Christmas.

But, of course, it is far harder to please the overgrown children, the adults. No wonder cynical companies, with an eye on the bottom line, try to exploit these child-like yearnings. And no wonder it always ends in tears.

□□□□

MIND you, while I'm all for looking back at the days when Christmas was a simpler, less commercial affair, I do think the main television companies might be taking things a bit far this Christmas.

Look, I've got nothing against repeats, even if I do think the ubiquitous showings of Morecambe & Wise, or Only Fools and Horses, are overdone, and whisper it quietly, a bit over-rated. Eric and Ernie were okay, but give me Mike Yarwood anyday.

But this year Channel Five is truly distinguishing itself, with Chas & Dave's Xmas Knees Up — from 1982 — forming the centrepiece of its prime-time Christmas Day schedule. And they're not just showing it once. If, for some reason, you find yourself washing your hair on Christmas night, they are repeating it again on Sunday.

A repeat of a repeat, then. And let's face it, one that wasn't much cop Long, Long Ago.



Steve breeds bullfinches in his spare time



Hotworker Alan Hale with his baby daughter Evie



Shaun's hobby is rockabilly music

Hammering home a different side

These are metal workers but not as you know them as an exhibition illustrates. CHARLIE BENTON reports

FROM breeding bullfinches to rock climbing – the private lives of metal workers of the Black Country are being explored in a new exhibition.

Artist Luke Perry has got behind the camera to show a different side to some of the people helping to keep the region's industrial heritage alive.

The Behind the Hammer exhibition has been created as part of the Black Country Echoes festival and focuses on hot-workers and chainmakers at Solid Swivel, based in Cradley Heath.

Mr Perry said: "I am traditionally a public monument sculptor, that is what I am known for, but when Black Country Echoes approached me for this piece they were very loose in their brief.

Contrasts

"They wanted something that explored Solid Swivel as a company, but they said I should just do it in a way that I find interesting.

Mr Perry, who admits he had not done much photography at all since university, decided it was the best way to convey the lives of the metalworkers.

The photographic pieces, which were hung on the library carousels, each use one of the workers at the company as a subject, but contrasts their private lives at home with their work.

He explained: "There is an opinion from people that if you work in a factory that is kind of all you do – as in you go off to work, you hit something with a hammer and then you go back home again, and there is no depth.

"I have seen the other side of it now



Photographer Luke Perry has an exhibition of some of his work

and a lot of these people go home and they are botanists or they speak multiple languages, and they have great depths of personality and that is something I have always wanted to explore in a project.

"Public artwork, big sculptures and such, don't really lend themselves to a matter as intimate as that whereas photography does."

Mr Perry is the son of Graham Perry, the managing director of Solid Swivel, who also features in the exhibition.

The Solid Swivel company has been

home. All of the materials used to create the prints, from the paper to the metal used in the frames, were found in the Black Country.

Mr Perry said although some of the metal workers were unsure of being involved originally, they were very accommodating.

"All of them were a little nervous about having their photos taken but they were very trusting and kind," Mr Perry said.

"Their jobs require a lot of concentration, which meant they could not focus on what I was doing too much anyway which was very helpful. A lot of them were very welcoming, inviting me to their house, they were very kind."

Mr Perry said people who visit the exhibition will be surprised by the contrasting lives of the workers featured.

"One of the subjects, Alan, is a hot-worker, so his job requires a great deal of physical strength, but outside of work he is a dad of three, a very sensitive father, and it is all very lovely to watch.

Delicate

"Alan also makes these very delicate little cakes. A lot of people might think that forgers come into work, then go home to walk their Staffordshire Bull Terriers and drink, and that is just not what it is like – he is a very modern man in many ways.

"Steve, a chainmaker, is another subject. His work is so hot and dangerous and he uses huge 40-ton presses, and then he goes home and he breeds bullfinches.

"When you go into the aviary you have to be so quiet and calm and subtle in the way you measure out the liquids. All of the subjects are surprising.

"My father was the most surprising though, to look at him now you wouldn't think he was a mountaineer."

The exhibition will remain at Cradley Heath Library for several months.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright



THE picture of David Cameron flanked by the Chelsea Pensioners on the front of his greeting card was not exactly something that screamed 'It's Christmas', Noddy Holder style.

What it did attempt to convey was a sense of British pride. If there was a subtle hint in there for next year it might be that he wants everyone to think he's the one with whom Britain and all its great institutions are safe rather than Ed Miliband.

Certainly he is trying to ram home the message that a vote for UKIP would just let Labour back into Downing Street.

That message doesn't seem to have come up to the Black Country; or if it has people seem perfectly happy with that.

A poll by Tory peer Lord Ashcroft made for bleak reading for the Conservatives as it showed them in a distant third place in Dudley North. The seat is one of the key marginals the Tories failed to win in 2010 when they ended up having to settle for a coalition with the Lib Dems.

So on the one hand, David Cameron's argument that voting UKIP just lets Labour in makes sense. If we were to do as Labour wants, which is to just see UKIP as 'more Tory than the Tories', then the polls suggest support for the two parties added together would be greater than Labour.

Difference

As a result, people voting UKIP would get the absolute opposite of what they want – a party that doesn't want a referendum on the EU. The argument does not hold water though.

Sitting Labour MP Ian Austin does want a referendum and will tell anyone who asks him so. Also, UKIP loves to point out it takes votes off Labour as well. But it's more than that.

UKIP has made little secret of the view that it does not see any difference between the Tories and Labour. Deputy leader Paul Nuttall calls them 'two cheeks on the same backside' while Nigel Farage has said he'd do a 'deal with the devil' in return for the referendum. In short 'vote UKIP get Miliband' means nothing to them.

UKIP will be quite happy getting some MPs elected and then making various demands in return for their support on key votes. Britain does not do presidential elections like the US, however much Tony Blair might have liked it if we did.

When people go to the polls in May they are not voting for a choice between Cameron, Miliband, Clegg, Farage or Howling Laud Hope of the Monster Raving Loony Party.

They are choosing their local MP. Of course that's always been the case. It just seemed a little less so when it was a straight choice between one party or the other.

The coalition has changed that.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

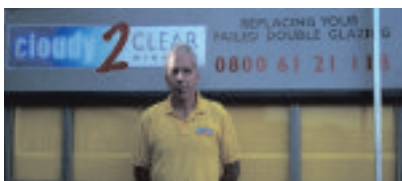
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Voluntary group to take over running of civic hall

A COMMUNITY group will take over the running of Brierley Hill Civic Hall from Dudley Council, as part of cost-cutting plans.

Dudley Council is looking to transfer the day-to-day management of the venue, which attracts thousands of people every year, to Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS).

Bosses says the move would save the local authority money at a time a squeeze is on local authority coffers and would help increase the number of shows staged at the hall in Bank Street.

It would be on a trial basis for 18 months beginning in February, if approved.

Community groups in the borough that use the hall are currently being consulted on the plans before a final decision is made.

As DCVS is a registered charity, it will be eligible for business rate relief enabling the money saved to be put into attracting and promoting new and bigger shows to increase visitor numbers.

Discussions

It's not yet known how much the move will save the council, which needs to make savings of at least £27 million during the next three years, but bosses say it's hoped it could potentially save a 'significant' amount in the future.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "We are in discussions with Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS) about the day-to-day running of Brierley Hill Civic Hall with the council maintaining ownership of the building."

"If approved it will lead to more shows and visitors to the landmark building, via an established and highly regarded community organisation. This is all about fulfilling our promise as a community council and looking at smarter ways of delivering excellent services to the public."

Brierley Hill Civic Hall is the largest theatre in the borough with the biggest stage and an orchestra pit.

Street revamp boosts trade



King Street re-opens and Dudley Council transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed is seen with traders Mohammed Sagir and Sarah Hill

THE re-opening of a main route through Dudley town centre to two-way traffic has been welcomed as a boost for businesses.

A £650,000 project has been completed in King Street, which sits between Union Street and Flood Street. Only buses and taxis had been able to use the route. Motorists wanting to drive from one side of King Street to the other were diverted around the Flood Street car parks to the rear of King Street.

But now all traffic can use the route and eight extra parking spaces have been provided in a bid to encourage more passing trade.

Roy Jevons, who has run Roy Jevons Music School for more than 30 years, said: "We are all really pleased that King Street has reopened and with the improvements that have been made. I've remained committed to Dudley town centre. I have already noticed increased awareness of my shop."

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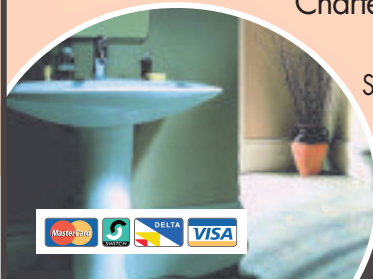
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Funtime for all as party is enjoyed

Grange 'E' TG

GRANGE 'E' Guild held a Christmas party for their members along with invited guests from West Midlands Federation and Oldswinford Guild.

The evening commenced with a hot meal and dessert provided and served the guild committee. This was followed by tea or coffee and mince pies.

The entertainment was provided by Funtime Theatre who sang a selection of songs from the 50s and 60s followed by a selection of seasonal music for all to sing along with. The vote of thanks was given by chairman Hazel Smith for a very enjoyable performance.

The raffle was drawn with a wide variety of prizes being won by lucky members.

A vote of thanks was given to the committee by Federation chairman Margaret Tew for an enjoyable evening and for all the hard work the committee had put in to make the party a huge success.

Guild member Margaret Blower also gave a vote of thanks to the committee on behalf of the members.

Chairman Hazel Smith wished everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.

There will be no meeting in January. The first meeting in the New Year will be held on February 3 at Grange Court, Prescott Road, Stourbridge commencing at 7.30pm.

New members and visitors will, as ever, be made most welcome.

Retiring chairman in gift for charity



Pat Pratt, Sarah Jones and Sue Booker

Highgate Ladies Probud Club

HIGHGATE Ladies Probud Club welcomed Sarah Jones from Breakthrough Cancer and Pat Pratt who has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

A cheque for £150 was presented to them by Sue Booker, retiring Probud Club chairman.

Breakthrough Cancer was Mrs Booker's charity of choice during her year as chairman. Highgate Ladies Probud Club meets on the second Monday of each month at Broadway United Reform Church hall in Gillity Avenue, Walsall.

Meetings start at 10.15am and visitors are very welcome to join the friendly bunch of members.

Each month brings a different speaker, which is always interesting and entertaining.

Tea and coffee is served along with lots of laughs.

Guild and Luncheon Club join forces for seasonal get-together

IN December, the main monthly meeting of Kingswinford Townswomen's Guild joined with the Luncheon Club's Christmas lunch at The Lodge in Dudley.

The announcements were kept to a minimum, namely reminders about the Federation carol service, the final session of the Scrabble group and the social evening on December 17.

Members of the club wish all their friends and supporters a happy Christmas and a

Kingswinford TG

healthy and prosperous New Year. The club will now go into semi-hibernation until January 7 2015, when the Luncheon Club will resume its activities for those with a sufficient appetite.

The next monthly meeting, in the Community Centre will be on Monday, January 12.

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Beavers leader stands down after 22 years



Bye Betty — Beaver Scout leader Betty Southall (centre), of Kingswinford, surrounded by 1st Wall Heath Beavers

A BEAVER scout group leader has bid a fond farewell to her colony, retiring 22 years after co-founding her Wall Heath group.

Betty Southall, 71, was treated to a surprise goodbye party before hanging up her neckerchief after helping generations of children.

She became leader of the 1st Wall Heath Beavers in 1992. The group for the youngest in the scouting family is based at the community centre in Enville Road.

Children and volunteers decided to surprise Betty with a party, presenting her with flowers and a cake. "It was a wonderful surprise, I didn't expect it, I thought I was going along mainly to present Chief Scout's Bronze awards to them," said Mrs Southall, who lives in Buckingham Grove, Kingswinford.

The grandmother-of-three joined the movement in 1975 and was a leader at the 3rd and 4th Kingswinford Girl Guides.

She was joined by her friend Lyn Green, who also became a leader, and they led the groups before starting the first Beaver colony in the district

in 1986, based at Dawley Brook Primary School. When her husband Doug moved to Leeds for work, Betty joined him but still volunteered with a scout group in the city.

When they moved back to the West Midlands two years later, she set up the 1st Wall Heath Beavers on the invitation of scout leader Tom Bunce.

"I have most enjoyed the social part of scouting, not just with the children but the parents too," said Mrs Southall, who also was a demonstrator at Black Country Living Museum. "I'll still be back to help out from time to time."

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First pledge is to give all a fair hearing on Dudley ideas

WITH this year's General Election set to be one of the most unpredictable in living memory, it's going to be more important than ever for people to think about which local candidate is on their side and will do their best to represent their views in Parliament.

I know lots of people say politicians are out of touch or that voting doesn't matter but I work hard to do things differently and listen to local people.

People in Dudley are my boss, and it's my job to go to Parliament and speak up for them, whether people in London like it or not.

That's why I'm making it my first election pledge give a fair hearing to everyone's proposals for Dudley, whatever party they're from.

Local people aren't interested in political point scoring or personal attacks and neither am I.

I'm on the side of hard working people in Dudley and my number one priority is to improve our town and address local people's concerns.

It's thanks to help from local campaigners that we were successful in protecting Dudley's Magistrates Court and our local Territorial Army base in the town centre.

Now more than a thousand local people have signed our petition to keep Dudley Police Station open to the public, and that's helped me get the Home Secretary Theresa May to stand up and take notice.

Just before Christmas she had her regular meet-

THE WAY I SEE IT



Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

'People in Dudley are my boss, and it's my job to go to Parliament and speak up for them, whether people in London like it or not'

ing with the Home Affairs Select Committee to answer questions on everything from terror threats to local policing.

I raised a number of issues, but I was determined to tell her how angry people are that Dudley could become the largest town in the country without a police station open to the public.

Like me, local people want more police on the streets, more offenders brought before court and more criminals put in jail, and these plans won't help do that.

I asked her to listen to local people on this issue and I'll be meeting her or the Policing Minister Mike Penning to discuss the closure soon.

The more support for

the station we can show the Government the more chance we have of keeping the station open — so please sign our petition at www.ianaustin.co.uk if you haven't done so already.

Memorial

Every year I organise a Remembrance Day service at Grazebrook Park working with community campaigner Steve Briscoe, who chairs the Friends of Buffery Park, as well as local Councillors Shaikat Ali, Steve Waltho and Safeena Arshad.

The park is home to the Grazebrook Memorial, first erected in 1920 by the Grazebrook family in remembrance of their son, Captain C A Grazebrook, who lost

his life in the Great War along with many other local people.

The Friends of Buffery Park have been working hard to secure funding from the War Memorial Trust to get the memorial fully restored, but they need more records of what the memorial used to look like, when it was first built and its connection with the Grazebrook family.

Local people have shown great respect for the Grazebrook Memorial, so I'm hoping residents out there have records, photos or newspaper cuttings from when the memorial was established or over the years since.

I'm appealing for them to come forward so the Friends of Buffery Park can secure this extra funding and restore the memorial in full as a tribute to men from the town who gave their lives fighting for freedom and democracy.

If you have any records of the memorial please get in touch with local volunteer Lynn Horton on 07857 043 096.

It's been brilliant to see new businesses like Vintage Rose on Birdcage Walk opening up in the town over Christmas.

I also met with successful local businesswoman Kay Bowen whose new Cambridge Weight Loss Centre opens at Pure Class Fitness and Dance Studios on Tipton Street in Sedgley on Tuesday, January 6.

If it's your New Year's resolution to get in shape, make sure you pay her new centre a visit!



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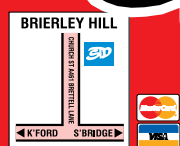
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With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and

installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

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"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for," advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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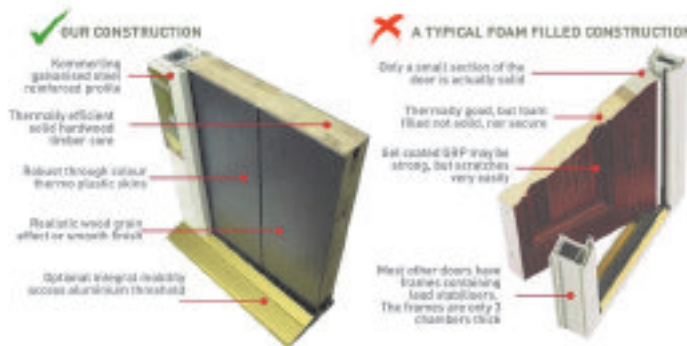
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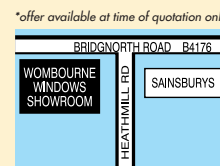
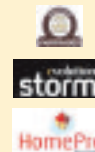
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Council in crackdown on sub-letting housing cheats

Stop and search being used less often by police

It's full steampunk ahead for author, 18



Fantasy author and student Imogen Laverick launches her first book, *Dead Night*, at Dudley Library

A BRIERLEY Hill student has already published her first novel, at the age of 18.

Imogen Laverick, from Tipton, hopes her passion for books could become her career if first work *Dead Night* is a success.

It was launched at Dudley Library and is described as a 'steampunk' gothic fantasy novel.

The art student, who studies at Birmingham Metropolitan College's Brierley Hill campus, said inspiration for her first book came from a variety of sources, including some of her friends in the Black Country.

"It's about an alternate universe, set in Victorian London, where there are vampires, werewolves, wizards and fairies and it follows a hybrid of those immortals who is an assassin," she said. "It's gothic, historic and even a bit romantic."

She added: "I think it's quite unusual to be published at my age and I'm proud of what I've done."

Young volunteer is West Midlands cadet of the year

A YOUNG ambulance volunteer based at Sedgley has been handed a top role within her organisation.

Megan Cullen, a 17-year-old volunteer with the St John Ambulance service, was named the West Midlands Central District Cadet of the Year for 2015 and will now represent her colleagues from the region at public and St John Ambulance events.

In a competition designed to single out the district's most outstanding St John Ambulance Cadet, Megan, from Penn, had to complete a first aid challenge to demonstrate her life saving abilities, take part in a team building exercise, give

a presentation and be interviewed by judges.

Megan, who is studying for her A-levels at Wolverhampton Girls' High School, volunteers with the charity's Sedgley Cadet Unit.

She said: "I am extremely proud to represent the organisation as Cadet of the Year, it's a perfect way to spend my final year at St John Ambulance. Throughout my time as a cadet, I have undertaken a wide range of experiences that have challenged me, broadened my horizons and been fun. I am really keen to share these experiences with other young people and encourage their participation in the charity."

TENANTS in Dudley are flouting laws by renting out their council homes to make money.

More than 500 housing fraud investigations were launched during 2013/14.

As well as illegal sub-letting, officers also uncovered cases where tenants hadn't been using their property as their only home and had been living elsewhere some of the time.

There were also tenants who had abandoned their properties and people who not moved out when the named tenant had died.

Dudley Council said in 12 months, there were 84 cases of tenancy fraud. It comes as the demand for properties in the borough continues to grow. Housing bosses recently announced plans to build around 350 new homes to help fill the gap.

It also cancelled or excluded eight

By Heather Large

people from its waiting list because they made a fraudulent application for a property and also detected and denied one fraudulent Right to Buy application.

Director of adult, community and housing services Andrea Pope-Smith said: "The demand for council housing in Dudley far outweighs the number of properties available. To ensure we get best value from our council homes, it is important we prevent them from being obtained or used fraudulently."

Recruited

"We recruited two tenancy fraud officers to our anti-social-behaviour team to ensure we are taking a robust approach to both fraud detection and prevention."

She added: "We are continuing our work with social housing providers

across the West Midlands in a joint initiative to detect more fraud. We are doing this by sharing data and intelligence that will highlight potential fraudsters living in our accommodation."

"Changes to legislation during 2013/14 have made sub-letting social housing a criminal offence. The council now has the power to prosecute offenders under this legislation which could see those who commit this type of fraud go to prison."

The council regularly receives tip-offs from the public which lead to investigations.

In November last year, it received an anonymous call through its fraud hotline about a tenant, who was sub-letting his flat in Stourbridge to a couple, while claiming housing benefit and living elsewhere. The tenant surrendered possession of the property after being presented with the evidence.

THE number of people stopped and searched by police in the West Midlands has been more than halved after a major rethink.

On average there were 1,200 searches a month with 21 per cent resulting in an arrest, usually for possession of drugs, knives or stolen property, during April and November. This compares with 2,700 searches a month producing an arrest rate of around eight per cent over the same period the year before.

This was before the change in approach during which over 5,000 front line officers received specialist face-to-face guidance in the proper use of the controversial stop and search power for the first time in their career.

The training focused on law and procedure, street craft including the formation of reasonable grounds to search, the importance of civility and understanding the impact on communities of using the power effectively and ineffectively. This was stated in a report being to be presented to the last Strategic Policing and Crime Board meeting.

That resulted in the ratio of black to white people being stopped and searched from 3.7 to 2.8 in the West Midlands. There was also a drop in the ratio between Asian and white people from 2 to 1.5 in the same comparative period. It is hoped that there will be a reduction of at least 6,000 in number stopped and searched in the area.

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Housing group launch a £500k social fund



Investing in skills for youth — Black Country Housing Group chief Amanda Tomlinson with apprentices

A **COST-SAVINGS** programme at the Black Country Housing Group (BCHG) is to raise £500,000 over three years for community projects and new social enterprises.

Chief executive Amanda Tomlinson said that £165,000 a year was being identified by staff at the not-for-profit organisation, which employs around 200 people.

Blackheath-based BCHG will use the funds in the local community to fund apprenticeships for young people

and build skills through its 'Young Blood' initiative. This aims to double the proportion of younger people in the housing group's workforce, under the age of 25, from five per cent to 10 per cent by 2017.

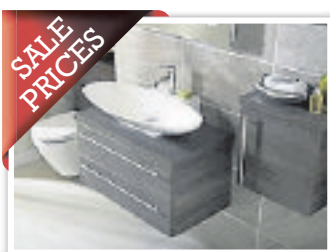
BCHG also intends to create two social enterprises, to support local community projects and fund local job clubs, as well as a hardship fund for vulnerable customers.

BCHG, now in its 40th year, operates primarily in Dudley and Sandwell but also has homes in Birmingham and Walsall. It currently provides more than 2,000 homes and supports

more than 13,000 people with employment advice, care, support and home improvements. It has contracts with local authorities to provide home improvement and maintenance work as well as running care homes.

Amanda Tomlinson, who took over the £13 million a year business as chief executive a year ago, said surpluses were reinvested into the business to fund growth. It has just secured £12 million of private sector lending to fund new housebuilding — around 200 new homes — and the creation of two care homes in the Dudley area for 130 people with dementia.

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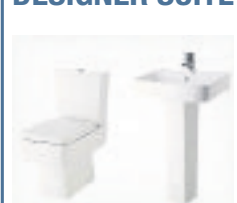


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2015



A lunar landing for singing star Jane McDonald as the Enchantress



Gary Wilmot as Dame Trott in Jack and the Beanstalk at Birmingham Hippodrome



And so to bed... Duncan James, Paul Zerdin, Gary Wilmot and Matt Slack



Blue star Duncan James as Jack Trott before revealing his buff torso and impressive set of tattoos

Happy Jack and his six pack at a giant panto

Jack and the Beanstalk, Birmingham Hippodrome
FEE-FI-FO-FUM I smell a giant hit at Birmingham Hippodrome thanks to funnyman Matt Slack and a whole heap of eye-popping special effects.

The trio of comics from last year's record-breaking Brum panto are back for more inspired silliness, that's Slack as Silly Billy, ventriloquist Paul Zerdin as Simple Simon and Gary Wilmot as Dame Trot as the rib-ticklers three in Jack and the Beanstalk.

Hunky Duncan James from pop group Blue makes for a dashing Jack, a view of his tats and six pack going down well with the mums, whilst Coronation Street villain Chris Gascoyne looks like he's a member of an 80s Goth band as the wicked giant's agent Fleshcreep. "Back on the boos" he quips as the audience respond in traditional panto manner to his villainy.

Jane McDonald as The Enchantress, perched on a crescent moon for

PANTO REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

her big entrance, looked like she was on a lunar mission as uncomfortable as Apollo 13. And her shaky start was confirmed by her loud cough during the first musical number. However, the Yorkshire singer was soon back on cruise control to deliver her ballads in fine diva style and showed her funny side in the delirious 12 Days of Christmas routine, in which Slack told her she was "his favourite in The Nolans".

Wilmot has made an excellent transition from West End song and dance man to dame and led a great routine featuring dancing farm animals, including a cow doing the moo-n walk.

Zerdin sent up his role as a ventriloquist (though not as well as ten-year-old Lucy who in the cute end-of-show kids' spot told him she could see his lips move) while Slack stole the show with his impressions, zingy one-liners and rubber-faced, slapstick buffoon-

ery, right from the moment he tried to impress Robyn Mellor's Princess Apricot with his moves to Shaggy's Mr Boomastic.

Hippodrome pantos are known for their spectacle and this one lived up to that with an impressive 3D scene in the giant's castle with skulls, spiders, bats and even snot flying towards the audience. Add to that a beanstalk that grows to the roof of the auditorium, a flying helicopter and a spectacular final appearance of the giant looming over the audience, and it's just a shame the chopping down the beanstalk scene couldn't have been better than Duncan James waving an axe at a bit of painted scenery.

There were plenty of jokes at the expense of Birmingham's neighbours including a warning that the Land of the Giants may contain monsters, ogres and yam-yams. More pop numbers could have been packed into the two-hour show but clap-along main song Happy summed up the audience feeling. Jack and the Beanstalk continues at the Hippodrome until February 1.



Back on the boos — Coronation Street bad boy Chris Gascoyne gets into his Goth gear as Fleshcreep



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CHOICE



Paddy McGuinness

Take Me Out (ITV, 8.30pm)
If you watched the last series of Strictly Come Dancing, then you'll have had an inkling that this dating show was coming back soon after seeing Take Me Out: The Gossip presenter Mark Wright rehearsing his salsa on the Isle of Fernandos. But who else will host Paddy McGuinness be sending to soak up the sun? We're about to find out as he introduces us to a new line-up of 30 women, who are all looking for love. So in this first edition, gamekeeper Ash, from West Sussex, school bus driver Scott, from Newcastle, Somerset magician Steve and Leamington Spa student Craig will have to do their best to impress. In theory, Steve should have an advantage as he could literally have a few tricks up his sleeve, but will the girls fall under his spell?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **2.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the opening day of the tournament. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **5.35** Celebrity Mastermind.
6.05 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong hosts an FA Cup special, quizzing Gabby Logan, Robbie Savage, Mark Chapman, Phil Neville, Jermaine Jenas, Jacqui Oatley, Jason Mohammad and Trevor Sinclair.
7.00 **Frank Sinatra: Our Way.** Alexander Armstrong and Rochelle Humes host this one-off special in which seven acts from across the UK perform their own renditions of songs made famous by Frank Sinatra. The lucky winner will get the chance to perform at a concert celebrating the centenary of 'Ol Blue Eyes' birth later in the year – and choosing the best will be 12 music industry professionals, guided by the opinions of a celebrity panel including funnyman and performer Rufus Hound, singer Mica Paris and big-band musician Leo Green. The programme will also pay tribute to the singer's influence over the past seven decades, revealing why among his peers, he really was the "Chairman of the Board".
8.15 **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to try to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Kate Garraway.
9.05 **Casualty.** As 2015 approaches, Connie lets her personal life cloud her judgement and Zoe is saddened when alcoholic Molly is brought in, having been found unconscious in the park.
10.00 BBC News: Weather.
10.15 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** The second of two festive episodes. Agnes increases her home security after a spate of local burglaries. (R)
10.50 **Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** National Lottery Update.
12.00 **Film: Lesbian Vampire Killers.** (2009) **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Animal Park. (R) **6.30** **Film:** Hue and Cry. (1947) **7.50** **Film:** The Titled Thunderbolt. (1953) **9.10** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **9.40** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **10.10** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **11.00** FA Cup Rewind: Third-Round Classics. **12.00** The Great British Bake Off: Masterclass. (R) **1.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. (R) **1.05** The World's Most Photographed. (R) **1.35** **Film:** Viva Las Vegas. (1964) Musical, starring Elvis Presley. **3.00** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **4.00** Restoring England's Heritage. **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Further coverage of the opening day of the tournament. **5.30** Tigers About the House – What Happened Next. (R)
6.30 **Sacred Wonders of Britain.** Neil Oliver visits Bronze and Iron Age sites that were important to ancient Britons, examining a causeway built across fens near Peterborough and learning about druids on Anglesey. (R)
7.30 **Dad's Army.** The vicar and the verger enlist in the Home Guard, but their over-enthusiastic man-management brings the wrath of Warden Hodges down upon the platoon. (R)
8.00 **Rubens: An Extra Large Story.** Waldemar Januszczak examines the life and art of Flemish baroque artist Peter Paul Rubens, correcting the misconceptions that have arisen about him and re-evaluating his work. (2011)
9.00 **Film: Albert Nobbs.** (2011) Premiere. A woman in 19th-century Ireland has lived in disguise as a man for 30 years, holding down a job as a butler at a Dublin hotel. She meets a married house painter whom she discovers is a fellow cross-dresser, and is inspired by her new friend's happy life to seek a wife of her own. Period drama, starring Glenn Close, Mia Wasikowska, Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Janet McTeer.
10.45 **Charlie Brooker's 2014 Wipe.** A satirical look back at the events of the past 12 months, including the ice-bucket challenge craze and Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow's "conscious uncoupling". (R)
11.45 **Darts: BDO World Championships.** Action from the opening day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green.
12.35 Darts Extra. **2.35** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show!
6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Hulk and the Agents of S.M.A.S.H. **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **9.00** Deadline Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News: Weather. **11.25** Ejector Seat. (R) **12.25** The 21st Question. (R) **1.25** **Film:** Columbo: Lovely but Lethal. (1973) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Norman Sheen. **2.55** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.55** Tipping Point. (R) **4.55** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.55** Regional Programme: Weather.
6.05 **ITV News:** Weather.
6.20 **Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang.** (2010) A woman is left running the family farm alone while her husband is fighting in the Second World War. The war-faceted magical nanny is on hand to help her cope with her unruly children, their even more mischievous evacuated cousins, and her scheming brother-in-law, who wants the farm for himself. Fantasy comedy, with Emma Thompson, Maggie Gyllenhaal and the late Sam Kelly.
8.30 **Take Me Out.** New series. A gamekeeper, a bus driver, a magician and a student set out to impress a line-up of single women and take one of them for a break in the sun. Paddy McGuinness hosts.
9.30 **Film: The Hangover.** (2009) Premiere. Three men on a stag weekend in Las Vegas wake up after a night of heavy drinking and they have not only misplaced the groom, but somehow gained a tiger and a baby. Unable to remember the details of the night before, they set about piecing the clues together in the hope of finding their missing friend. Comedy, starring Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis.
11.30 **ITV News:** Weather.
11.45 **Film: Dog Day Afternoon.** (1975) A hapless bank robber sees his simple heist turn into a hostage situation and a media circus. Sidney Lumet's fact-based drama, starring Al Pacino.
1.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.10** ITV NightScreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **Film:** Arabian Adventure. (1979)
7.55 The Morning Line. **8.55** The King of Queens. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.25** Frasier. (R) **10.55** Frasier. (R) **11.25** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (R) **12.25** Gadget Man's Guide to Christmas. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** **Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel. (2009) Comedy, with Zachary Levi. **5.45** The Simpsons. (R)
6.10 **The Simpsons.** Bart plays a prank on Mrs Krabappel, but it backfires and results in her being fired – leaving him feeling so guilty that he resolves to do everything he can to get her reinstated. (R)
6.35 **The Simpsons.** Marge campaigns against a violent sport that has captivated Springfield's male population, antagonising promoter Chet Englebrecht, who challenges her to a fight. (R)
7.00 **Channel 4 News.**
7.30 **Britain's Wildest Weather 2014.** Last year, the nation was hit by tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and ferocious storms, as well as the chilliest August in more than two decades, but also enjoyed the hottest Halloween on record. This documentary presents eyewitness footage of an unpredictable 12 months, featuring rescues at sea, homes struck by lightning, an escape for 500 cows, and sea foam engulfing a bus. There's also a look at the science behind these wild weather events and why there may be worse to come. (R)
9.00 **Film: Taken.** (2008) An American teenager travelling through Europe is abducted by a gang of sex traffickers. However, what the kidnappers do not realise is that the girl's father is a former CIA agent, who employs all his old skills as he searches for the criminals and tries to rescue his daughter. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson and Maggie Grace.
10.50 **Bill Bailey Qualmepeddler.** Stand-up comedy from London's Hammersmith Apollo, accompanied by light-hearted musical numbers, from religious dubstep and German folk-metal to a reggae version of Downton Abbey.
11.50 **Film: The Godfather: Part III.** (1990) Crime drama sequel, starring Al Pacino.
2.55 Hollyoaks. (R) **5.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **5.15** Secret Eaters. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.25** **Film:** McLintock! (1963) Comedy Western, starring John Wayne. **3.55** **Film:** The Searchers (1956) John Ford's Western, starring John Wayne.
6.20 **Film: Zulu.** (1964) An upper-class soldier and his fellow officer stationed at Rorke's Drift in 1879 discover they have been cut off after the destruction of the main British army column in the area. They must rally their small force of 140 men against the might of 4,000 Zulu warriors advancing on their position. Fact-based historical drama, starring Michael Caine, Stanley Baker, Jack Hawkins, Ulla Jacobsson, Nigel Green and Chief Buthelezi, with narration by Richard Burton.
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2014.** Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of the year, from Solange Knowles attacking brother-in-law Jay Z in a lift, to Cheryl Fernandez-Versini's whirlwind romance and marriage as well as her return to The X Factor. Plus, the ongoing antics of Justin Bieber, One Direction's alleged dalliances with drugs, Russell Brand's attempt to start a revolution, Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin's "conscious uncoupling" and Judy Murray's efforts on Strictly Come Dancing. The programme also has the inside track on the weddings of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, and George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin, and considers whether Kim Kardashian's bottom is set to take over the world. Featuring contributions by Ken Goodman, Janice Dickinson, James Jordan, Sinitta, Kerry Katona, Ollie Locke, Jasmine Waltz and Suzanne Shaw. (R)
11.55 **Access.**
12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Autopsy: Michael Jackson's Last Hours. Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the cases of celebrities who died unexpectedly. (R) **4.00** House Doctor: A cottage in East Sussex. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** **Film:** Puss in Boots (2011) **10.20** Russell Howard's Good News **10.50** Family Guy **1.50** FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments **2.50** Russell Howard's Good News **3.50** Cuckoo Christmas Special **3.50** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano **8.00** Do We Really Need the Moon? **9.00** Wallander: The Dogs of Riga **10.55** Sammy Davis Jr: The Kid in the Middle **11.55** An Evening with Sammy Davis Jr **12.55** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **1.55** Lost Land of the Volcano **2.55** Sammy Davis Jr: The Kid in the Middle **3.55** Close
ITV2
12.15 The X Factor Class of 2014 **1.15** The Cube: Celebrity Special **2.10** **Film:** Space Jam (1996) **3.55** **Film:** Johnny English (2003) **5.40** You've Been Framed! **7.45** **Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.30** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.15** **Film:** The Bourne Ultimatum (2007) **12.25** Unseen Celebrity Juice Tit Bits **1.10** Two and a Half Men **1.35** Morn **2.20** The Funniest Moments
ITV3
1.00 **Film:** Gosford Park (2001) **3.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A is for Acid **1.55** Judge Judy **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Telenovapping
ITV4
1.05 **Film:** The Sting (1973) **3.40** **Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **5.30** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars Unlocked **7.00** Storage Wars **9.00** **Film:** Texas Killing Fields (2011) **11.10** **Film:** Total Recall (1990) **1.20** The Motorbike Show **2.10** Minder **E4**
11.00 Troy **11.30** How I Met Your Mother **12.30** **Film:** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **2.25** Rudie (ish) Tube **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** **Film:** The Golden Child (1986) **6.50** Rudie (ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Role Models (2008) **11.05** **Film:** End of Days (1999) **1.30** The Inbetweeners **2.30** Rudie Tube **3.25** Made in Chelsea: End of Season Party **4.20** Frozen at Christmas
Film4
11.00 Arriety (2010) **1.00** Coraline (2009) **3.05** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **4.45** New in Town (2009) **6.45** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **9.00** Resident Evil (2002) **11.00** Lawless (2012) **1.15** 10 Years (2011) **3.25** Close

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CHOICE



Kate Humble

Kate Humble – Into the Volcano (BBC2, 8pm)
Wildlife expert and TV presenter Kate Humble is brave if nothing else. Take this latest two-parter that she's fronting – in which she will be journeying right to the heart of one of the world's most active volcanoes. She and a team of geologists are on the island of Tanna, in the Vanuatu archipelago, studying Yasur, a volcano that erupts constantly, blowing out red-hot lava bombs and covering the area in thick black ash. Kate and the team are keen to decipher when another eruption can be expected, but to do this, they need to collect a lava bomb the minute it's thrown from the crater. In preparing for their mission, Kate explores the island and discovers how the volcano shapes the lives, traditions and beliefs of everyone who lives in its shadows.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.55** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Flog It! **2.15** Songs of Praise. **2.50** FA Cup Final Score. **5.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **5.20** Match of the Day Live. Arsenal v Hull City (Kick-off 5.30pm). **7.30** **Still Open All Hours.** Love is in the air in the corner shop as Granville continues his attempts to woo Mavis. Gastric needs yet more help with his love life and Leroy arouses jealousy. **8.00** **Countryfile.** Adam Henson presents a special edition focusing on rare-breed farm animals and the threats to their future. He is joined by his father Joe, a founder of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, who advises him on a potential addition to his farm – Longhorn cattle – and his daughter Ella helps train his Exmoor ponies. Adam also looks back at memorable items from the Countryfile archive featuring rare breeds, including Ellie Harrison learning to plough with a shire horse, Matt Baker following Tamworth pigs from farm to fork and Adam himself finding out how technology can help guarantee the future of rare farm animals. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **9.00** **Last Tango in Halifax.** Alan finally lets Celia into his secret about Gary, but is saddened when she punishes Caroline for his mistake – and on her wedding of all days. Gillian is left humiliated at work by an unexpected visit from Robbie's other half Cheryl, who reveals she knows the pair are sleeping together. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News. **10.30** **Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** Mark Chapman presents action from today's third-round matches, which saw the lower league sides aiming to end an upset against those from the Premier League and Championship. **11.50** **The Apprentice USA.** New series. Donald Trump kicks off another celebrity edition, with candidates including Gary Busey, Dionne Warwick, Meat Loaf and David Cassidy selling pizzas. **1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** FA Cup Rewind: Third-Round Classics. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** The Great British Bake Off Masterclass. (R) **1.00** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the second day of the tournament. **4.45** Ski Sunday. **5.30** Coast. (R) **6.00** **Tigers About the House – What Happened Next.** Part two of two. The Clarks see the harsh reality of poaching in Indonesia when they visit tigers that were caught in snares, prompting Giles to concoct an ambitious plan to save the injured big cats in the wild. Back in Australia, Spot and Stripe are days away from their first birthday and will no longer be classed as cubs, while Spot faces an operation that will end with him losing all vision. (R) **7.00** **Top Gear Patagonia Special.** Part one of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May take used sports cars on a gruelling trip to the world's southernmost city to stage a game of car football. (R) **8.00** **Kate Humble – Into the Volcano.** Part one of two. Kate joins a team of geologists on a research expedition to the Vanuatu archipelago in the southern Pacific, and explores the volcano of Mount Yasur on Tanna. **9.00** **Reinventing the Royals.** First of a two-part documentary in which Steve Hewlett tells the inside story of the relationship between the monarchy and the media during the past 20 years. **10.00** **QI XL.** Extended edition. Jeremy Clarkson, Sandi Toksvig, Danny Baker and Alan Davies attempt to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the topics of luck and loss. **10.45** **Racing Legends: Barry Sheene.** Jim Moir (Vic Reeves) pays tribute to the former motorcycle racing world champion, examining how he rose to the top of his sport and became a popular public figure. (R) **11.45** **Darts: BDO World Championships.** Action from the second day at the Lakeside Country Club in Strimley Green. **12.35** **Darts Extra: 2.35** Sign Zone. **Countryfile.** (R) **3.35** Holly City. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bear: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **9.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder. (1990) **11.15** ITV News: Weather. **11.25** Britain's Best Bakery. (R) **12.25** Inside the National Trust. (R) **1.25** River Monsters. (R) **1.55** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.55** Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service. (1969) James Bond adventure, with George Lazenby. **6.45** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.45** **ITV News:** Weather. **7.00** **Diversity Live.** An entertainment special with the street-dance crew, featuring a range of spectacular new routines and appearances by special guests. Fresh from their UK arena tour, the Britain's Got Talent 2009 winners flex their creative muscles and demonstrate how all forms of dance, from ballet and jazz to tap, have inspired their career. They also look at the major influences that have helped them along the way, as the programme charts the group's journey to stardom. **8.00** **Foyle's War.** New series. Michael Kitchen returns to the role of Christopher Foyle, senior intelligence officer for MI5, in the first of three films. Foyle is drawn into the world of corrupt Nazi businessmen when a university professor is found murdered in a London park. When it transpires the victim was working as a translator in Nuremberg, the evidence realises there are powerful people trying to conceal secrets from the Second World War. Meanwhile, Sam (Honesyucke Vicky) volunteers for a risky undercover job, despite being pregnant. Guest stars include John Mahoney (Frasier), Jaime Winstone (Mad Dogs) and Nigel Lindsay (Four Lions). **10.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.15** **Film: Hot Fuzz.** (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. **12.25** **Premiership Rugby Union.** **1.20** The Store. **2.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **USA.** (R) **3.40** **ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.50** **Film:** Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging. (2008) Comedy drama, starring Georgia Groome. **3.50** **Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid. (2010) Family comedy, starring Zachary Gordon. **5.40** Channel 4 News. **6.05** **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** New series. Laura Hamilton advises former pub landlady Janice Gibson, who wants to swap her Newcastle lifestyle for a new start in the Mar Menor area of southern Spain. **7.00** **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** Phil Spencer is on the Mersey, trying to sell two properties with dodgy decor and problem pooches. Ron hasn't been able to part with his four-bedroom family home after 18 months on the market, and it looks like his beloved pug Janice is to blame. On the Wirral, Phil has got his hands full with Sandy and her six dogs. **8.00** **The Hotel.** Mark organises a record-breaking attempt to bake Britain's biggest scone, but Cavendish owner Vicky does not have much faith in head chef Gerry's ability to pull it off. **9.00** **Walking the Nile.** New series. Levison Wood treks the length of the River Nile from source to sea, on a nine-month expedition taking him through jungles, savannahs, deserts, cities and war zones. **10.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the word and numbers quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by Kathy Burke and David Baddiel. (R) **11.05** **Rude Tube: Welcome to 2015.** Alex Zane explores the 100 most popular internet videos of the past 12 months in a special edition of the show, featuring the spider-dog prank. (R) **1.00** **Film: Thirst.** (2009) **3.15** The Guides. (R) **3.30** Mesh: Tourist Trap. (R) **3.35** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **4.30** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **5.25** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.40** Small Animal Hospital. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.40** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Monkey Life. (R) **11.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **12.00** **Film:** Forever Young. (1992) Romantic sci-fi drama, with Mel Gibson and Jamie Lee Curtis. **1.55** **Film:** The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes. **3.50** **Film:** Snow White. (2001) Fairy-tale fantasy, starring Kristin Kreuk. **5.35** **Film:** Bambi. (1942) Animated drama, with the voice of Bobby Stewart. **6.55** **5 News Weekend.** **7.05** **Film: Rush Hour.** (1998) A Hong Kong detective is sent to Los Angeles to investigate a kidnapping, but the local authorities worry that his presence in America might spark an international incident, and assign a loud-mouthed and troublesome cop to keep an eye on him. However, the new partnership proves an explosive combination. Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Ken Leung, Tom Wilkinson and Chris Penn. Edited for language and violence. **9.00** **Film: House at the End of the Street.** (2011) Premiere. A teenager moves to a new area and discovers a nearby house was the site of a horrifying incident in which a girl murdered her parents before disappearing without trace. She befriends the killer's troubled brother, but starts to worry that he may be hiding a terrifying secret. Horror, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Max Thieriot. **10.55** **Film: Final Destination.** (2000) A teenager's premonition saves his friends from dying in a plane crash, but their narrow escape is only the prelude to a chain of tragedies. Horror, with Devon Sawa and Ali Larter. **12.50** **SuperCasino.** **3.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.00** **House Doctor.** (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments **8.30** World's Craziest Fools **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments **12.30** Russell Howard's Good News **1.30** Life Is Tuff **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Sing's Musicals **8.00** Mark Lawson Talks to PD James **9.00** Hermitage Revealed **10.00** **Film:** A Royal Affair (2012) **12.10** Top of the Pops: 1980 – Big Hits **1.10** The Carpenters at the BBC **1.45** Sing's Musicals **2.45** Hermitage Revealed **3.45** Close
ITV2
11.25 Take Me Out **12.25** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.10** Blue: The Hot Desk **1.25** **Film:** Richie Rich (1994) **3.20** **Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.10** **Film:** Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **7.00** **Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.00** **Film:** Knocked Up (2007) **11.35** **Film:** Saw II (2005) **1.30** **Film:** Reaction **2.10** Blue: The Hot Desk **2.20** **Teleshopping** **5.50** **ITV2** Nightscreen
ITV3
11.25 Wycliffe **12.40** Rosemary & Thyme **1.45** **Film:** Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **3.35** Inspector Morse **5.55** **Lewis** **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Northern Lights **11.00** **Film:** Larry Crowne (2011) **1.05** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes **2.00** **Countrywise** **2.50** Judge Judy **3.10** **ITV3** Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
ITV4
2.55 Storage Wars **6.10** **Film:** The Cinnamon Kid (1952) **8.00** **Premiership Rugby Union** **9.00** **Film:** Troy (2004) **12.15** **Film:** This Is Spinal Tap (1984) **1.55** The Cycle Show **2.45** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** **Teleshopping** **3.30** The Store **4.30** **Teleshopping**
E4
12.30 Melissa & Joey **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** **Film:** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **10.20** The Inbetweeners **11.30** **Made in Chelsea:** End of Season Party **12.30** **Virtually Famous** **1.25** Rules of Engagement **2.20** The 100 **3.00** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.30** **Hollyoaks**
Film4
11.00 A Ticket to Tomahawk (1950) **1.00** Leap Year (2010) **3.00** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **4.50** Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **6.55** Tower Heist (2011) **9.00** Battleship (2012) **11.35** Affie (1966) **1.50** Wrong Turn 2: Dead End (2007) **3.50** **Close**

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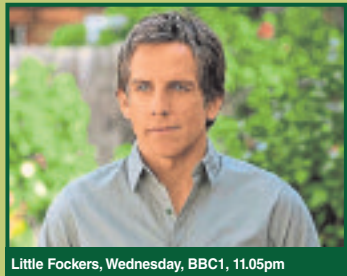
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MONDAY
Stolen Child, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A couple who have tried unsuccessfully to conceive resort to adopting a baby from Eastern Europe. However, their newfound happiness is shattered when they discover the disturbing series of events that brought the child into their lives. Drama, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Corbin Bernsen. (2012)

TUESDAY
Dinner for Schmucks, BBC1, 11.50pm
 An ambitious executive hopes to win a mean-spirited contest held by his bosses to find the most ridiculous dinner-party guest for everyone to mock. He thinks he has found the perfect winning entry when he meets a dim-witted and socially awkward amateur taxidermist – but has to contend with pretending they are friends. Comedy, with Steve Carell and Paul Rudd. (2010)

WEDNESDAY
Little Fockers, BBC1, 11.05pm
 Nurse Greg is now the proud father of twins, but has yet to earn the respect of his wife's stern father after 10 years of marriage. The couple invite both sides of their extended family to the kids' birthday party, where Greg makes a desperate effort to finally prove his worth to his father-in-law. Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Owen Wilson and Dustin Hoffman. (2010)



Little Fockers, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
A Time to Remember, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A middle-aged single mother returns under a cloud to the family home for Thanksgiving, where she tries to heal the fractured relationship between herself and her estranged mother. However, any possible reconciliation is threatened by an unexpected and dramatic development. Drama, starring Dana Delany, Doris Roberts, Megan Gallagher, Louise Fletcher, Rosemary Forsyth, Robert Bauer, Erich Anderson, Amy Stell, Davenia McFadden and Michael Dean Jacobs. (2003)

FRIDAY
The Invention of Lying, ITV, 10.40pm
 In a world where everyone always tells the truth, a failed documentary writer learns how to lie. Since no one else knows what deception is, his most ludicrous inventions are taken at face value, making him a huge success – and ultimately leading to him starting his own religion. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner, Jonah Hill, Louis CK, Jeffrey Tambor, Fionnula Flanagan, Rob Lowe and Tina Fey. (2009)

Duo return to unravel another mysterious case

Prepare to be gripped to the TV again – yes, David Tennant and Olivia Coleman are back as Alec Hardy and Ellie Miller in the second series of the drama that kept the nation on the edge of its seats in March 2013.

Broadchurch made such a massive impact on its initial broadcast that it's hard to believe it's almost two years since it made its debut, and this sequel is one of the most eagerly awaited programmes of recent years.

The original run focused on the murder of 11-year-old Danny Latimer. For eight weeks, viewers attempted to guess whodunit, and were shocked when it was revealed – spoiler alert – that it was Ellie's husband Joe who was the culprit. We also cheered her on when she gave him a kicking after discovering the truth.

Both Ellie and Hardy were expected to leave the police force after solving the murder – she to perhaps start a new life with her sons elsewhere, and he due to ill health – but neither of them seems to have been able to leave the sleepy Dorset town.

Jodie Whittaker also returns as Danny's pregnant mum Beth, while Andrew Buchan, Arthur Darvill, Jonathan Bailey, Carolyn Pickles, Tanya Franks, Joe Sims, Simone McAllay, Adam Wilson and Charlotte Beaumont also reprise their roles.

But there are a few newcomers too, including Eve Myles, Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Meera Syal, James D'Arcy and Charlotte Rampling.

"The whole Broadchurch team has been delighted and properly gobsmacked by the response from ITV viewers," says writer Chris Chibnall. "When I first talked to Peter Fincham and Laura Mackie, ITV's Director of Drama about Broadchurch, I mentioned that if people liked it, there was another very different story we could tell afterwards. I'm really thrilled we're going to tell that story too."

"It's such a privilege to be able to work with Chris to bring the next chapter of Broadchurch to our screens," adds executive producer Jane Featherstone. "And although we're giving nothing away right now, I

can tell you it's going to keep on delivering surprises and scale."

For now, nobody is willing to say what the surprises are, or even what the story is about – we're all going to have to tune in to find out. However, there is a clue out there for anyone with the time and patience to look for it.

At the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival in July, Chibnall, Colman and Whittaker helped launch the Broadchurch novelisation alongside author Erin Kelly. She revealed that Chibnall had added a sentence close to her publication deadline that gave a hint of what the sequel would be about.

It's been announced that Rampling will play a character called Jocelyn who didn't appear in the first series – but her house is featured on a map of the town in the book, and she is also mentioned. Could she be the key to the story?

Maybe – fans are already discussing the theory on the internet, and it will certainly be interesting to find out if they're right.



Olivia Colman and David Tennant star in Broadchurch, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Richard Wilson on the Road, ITV, 8pm

New series. The One Foot in the Grave star tours the UK in a vintage 1960s car, but there's no sat-nav for him – he's using guidebooks first published in the 1930s. Beginning in the heart of the Derbyshire countryside, the actor learns about the Kinder Scout uprising that led to the freedom to roam the Derbyshire Dales.

Rich, Russian and Living in London, BBC2, 9pm

Documentary exploring the lives of wealthy Russians who have chosen to make London their home, looking at why they favoured the city and their obsessions with the English education system, polo and the monarchy. The film follows an art collector; and an entrepreneur who says he was chased out of Russia for his liberal views and growing bank balance, as well as revealing more about the life of a supermodel and two debutantes preparing for the glitz and glamour of the prestigious Russian ball.

TUESDAY
Silent Witness, BBC1, 9pm

New series. Nikki and Jack are called to a petrol

station where three people have been shot dead, and conclude it is the work of a concealed shooter working from long range – a sniper is at large in London. They combine ballistics and wound pathology with the killer-profiling skills of senior investigator DCI Jane De Freitas, as they work to find this seemingly random murderer before panic hits the city. Continues tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY
Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch, Channel 5, 9pm

New series. The fly-on-the-wall fun begins once more as Emma Willis invites a fresh group of famous faces to move in together and have their every word and move recorded for the enjoyment of the viewing public. This time round, the famous residents will be taking part in their own fairy tale, although with Big Brother in charge, it is unlikely they are going to live happily ever after. The newly designed house has whimsical elements conjuring up a magical atmosphere full of possibility – but there are also hints that something more sinister is lurking. It's to be hoped that

BB fans don't have anything else planned for the next three weeks.

THURSDAY
Death in Paradise, BBC1, 9pm

Chances are you know the Death in Paradise format by now: a character is killed on the idyllic Caribbean island of Saint Marie; there's a host of eclectic associates who may have done the deed, and it's up to the likes of DI Humphrey Goodman (Kris Marshall), DS Camille Bordey (Sara Martins), and Officer Dwayne Myers (Danny John-Jules) to get to the bottom of the mystery.

The first victim of series four is plantation owner and businessman, Elias Thomson: he is brutally killed at his home during a group séance. The door to the room is firmly closed, so everyone at the scene is a suspect, but how did the killer go unseen when all participants – including Elias' kids, Daniel and Lucy – were holding hands throughout the séance?

FRIDAY
Xtreme Endurance Race to the Pole, Channel 5, 7pm

New series. Former rugby union player Richard Parks takes on a series of endurance events in preparation for his ultimate goal of becoming the fastest-ever person to ski unassisted to the South Pole from the coast of Antarctica. Richard's first gruelling challenge takes him to Nepal to participate in the Yak Attack, a mountain-bike race during which he battles against blistering heat, extreme cold, near-fatal collisions, sheer drops and extreme altitude on a course that winds 400 kilometres across the Himalayas.

The Musketeers, BBC1, 9pm

King Louis is tired of his cosseted royal lifestyle and demands to see things the way his carefree subjects do. But what starts out as a night of fun quickly descends into terror when he and d'Artagnan are mistaken for real commoners and kidnapped by the notorious criminal Lemaître, who plans to sell them to Spain as slaves. It's left to the remaining three Musketeers to rescue the king and their comrade – can they save them from mortal danger and return Louis to the palace in time for his son's christening? One person who seems grateful for the king's absence is Rochefort.

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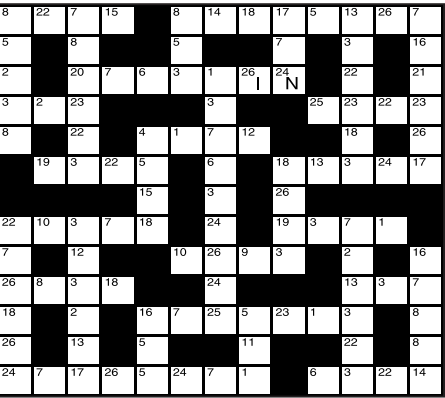
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	E	J	D	S	Y	T	I	Q	A	P	X	K	U
14	N	G	C	O	Z	F	L	H	B	M	R	W	V

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

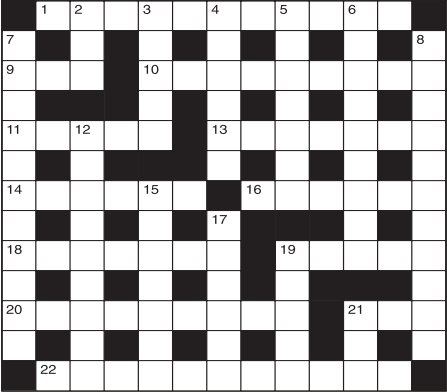
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Approve a human face (11)
- 9. One gets nothing for it (3)
- 10. Will it shoot itself? (9)
- 11. General secretaries? (5)
- 13. Fresh letters of support? (7)
- 14. Yet his talk is far from uplifting (3-3)
- 16. Specify how a token may be regarded? (6)
- 18. A dancer on tour perhaps (7)
- 19. It may be a nasty demonstration, though in play (5)
- 20. Taking in and finding very interesting (9)
- 21. Apt to have a sudden attack (3)
- 22. Scottish family needs it made secret (11)

Down

- 2. You have to do so (3)
- 3. Gets close in linear size (5)
- 4. Set out and consumed what was left? (6)
- 5. A smile's unambitious outcome (7)
- 6. Good barbers do it - only just in time (3,2,4)
- 7. Immediately erect a road (11)
- 8. The shooting of unknown persons? (11)
- 12. Sacking one ship in dreary surroundings (9)
- 15. Sold by chemists in Paris perhaps (7)
- 17. Possibly aspire to commend (6)
- 19. Seeing sense (5)
- 21. Cool an ardent admirer (3)



Quick Clues:

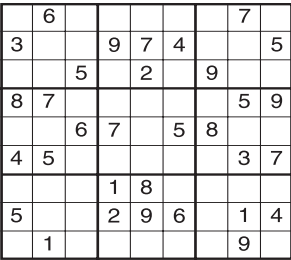
Across

- 1. Unwise (11)
- 9. Pinch (3)
- 10. Enchant (9)
- 11. Upright (5)
- 13. Chronicler (7)
- 14. Suit of woollen cloth (6)
- 16. Pious (6)
- 18. Intrigue (7)
- 19. Attack (5)
- 20. Garment-making (9)
- 21. Also (3)
- 22. Powerful (11)

Down

- 2. Doze (3)
- 3. Unsuitable (5)
- 4. Interior (6)
- 5. Copy (7)
- 6. Of one mind (9)
- 7. Barrenness (11)
- 8. Reinstatement (11)
- 12. Height (9)
- 15. Plunder (7)
- 17. Complete (6)
- 19. Should (5)
- 21. Beverage (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	4	1	2	3	5	9	6	8
2	5	8	9	7	6	1	3	4
6	3	9	1	6	4	2	7	5
9	6	3	4	2	7	5	1	8
1	8	2	3	5	9	4	6	7
5	7	4	8	6	1	3	9	2
4	9	7	6	1	2	8	5	3
3	2	5	7	9	8	6	4	1
8	1	6	5	4	3	7	2	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pass; 3 Spyglass; 9 Learned; 10 Often; 11 Imprecations; 13 Turtle; 15 Aghast; 17 Rough diamond; 20 Crown; 21 Pension; 22 Disperse; 23 News. Down: 1 Palliative; 2 Sharp; 4 Pedlar; 5 Growing pains; 6 Antenna; 7 Sons; 8 Intelligence; 12 Students; 14 Plotous; 16 Adopts; 18 Opine; 19 Acid. QUICK - Across: 1 Sob; 3 Advocate; 9 Abscess; 10 Ensur; 11 Dispossessed; 13 Rarest; 15 Recess; 17 Improbability; 20 Egret; 21 Ignored; 22 Fiendish; 23 Lend. Down: 1 Standard; 2 Basis; 4 Desist; 5 Overspending; 6 Austere; 7 Even; 8 Remonstrated; 12 Ascended; 14 Remorse; 16 Avoids; 18 Nurse; 19 Deaf.

Quiz

- 1. Which form of political corruption was named after US politician Elbridge Gerry?
- 2. Who received an Oscar for his performance in Going My Way?
- 3. In which country was Vivien Leigh born?
- 4. What type of creature is the firefly?
- 5. What did Hippolyte Mege-Mouries invent in 1889?
- 6. In which ocean are the Mariana Islands?
- 7. Which sci-fi author wrote the screenplay for 2001: A Space Odyssey?
- 8. What is the kernel of the tree Myristica fragrans called?
- 9. Which actor/dancer was born Frederick Austerlitz?
- 10. Which vehicle is named from the Hindi for 'Lord of the World'?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lager; 2 Plaiice; 3 Constantinople; 4 St Christopher; 5 Daniel Day-Lewis; 6 Chopin; 7 Daisy; 8 Duchess Of Kent; 9 Taurus; 10 Hispaniola. Niner: INCUBATOR

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

97234 gives a bird,
818 gives a female animal,
365 gives a male animal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Fast Fiesta desirable

By Ian Donaldson

Nobody actually needs a car as fast as a Ferrari – or the more modest Ford tested here. But put your foot down in either and you'll want one, rather a lot.

It's the noise that does it first. And I'm not talking about Italy's most famous fast car either; the Ford makes sounds so seductive they tempt you to prod the throttle to hear them again.

The eager warble (from a mere three tiny cylinders) is addictive. But then so is the Fiesta itself, a special edition of Britain's most popular car and this time aimed at driver's who want fun without breaking the bank.

Ford already makes a fast Fiesta, with the potent ST that's proved a satisfying giant killer and starts from £17,250. It's tempting to call the car you see here an ST-lite, but that would do it an injustice.

It might cost less (not all that much less, to be honest) but there are other savings, with a reduced thirst for fuel, a much more friendly insurance rating (group 15 plays group 30) and less road tax – £20 versus £130 from year two.

You get less performance for the gentler assault on your pocket; the ST is properly fast, while the Red or Black Edition is simply lively. But you're most unlikely to complain after a good blast along a favourite road.

The poise and polish engineered into the way the Red Edition copes with our awful roads is enough to shame the efforts of too many rival car companies; the Fiesta

staying comfortably firm and totally in control.

Unlike a Ferrari, which will take you deep into dangerous speed territory before it starts to enjoy itself, the Fiesta will have you smiling whatever modest speed is displayed on its mildly fussy instrument panel.

This fastish Fiesta comes in two colours; a Red Edition for £15,995 and the Black Edition at £16,495.

The former is red all over, with a black roof and door mirrors, while the other one has that paint scheme in reverse, with the addition of a red lipstick smear around the radiator grille.

Flashy

And very smart the new paint job looks too, comfortably the right side of flashy but distinctive enough to draw looks of admiration from armies of young blokes who wish they earned enough to afford one. One day, chaps...

But it's the engine which dominates proceedings, producing an outrageous amount of power for something this tidily.

More horses for its tiny size, in fact, than any other car you can buy, Ferraris included.

Other Black and Red Edition features are black 17ins alloy wheels, leather wraps for steering wheel and gearchange gaiter and a leather trimmed handbrake with red stitching.

Oh, and floor mats with red around the edges too.

Missing is a gearbox with a sixth speed, leaving the engine spinning faster at a motorway cruise than it might otherwise.

In fact, the car is a fine M-way machine, humming along quietly at the legal limit so



'Ford Fiesta beats Ferrari.'

long as the surface is smooth – coarser roads make those bigger tyres hum a bit.

Fuel consumption will be miles away from the near 63mpg of the official figure – the test car showed 45.3mpg after it's week on test. But the ST would be much thirstier.

Like all Fiestas, the dashboard is beginning to look a bit over complicated; what was once a stylish homage to a mobile phone keypad is now too full of small but-

tons as phones have turned neat and minimal.

But this Ford is about driving pleasure. The nicely positive gearchange and steering without a trace of slack testify to the depth of development that's gone into this machine.

You can pay ten times as much for your motoring pleasure (are you listening Ferrari?) and your grin won't be any wider as you switch off the ignition. Promise.

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Goofy and wacky but the Adam works well

By David Banner

The Vauxhall ADAM is undoubtedly one of the more interesting small car choices around. It's hugely customisable both inside and out and looks strong.

There are two 1.4-litre engines with either 87PS or 100PS. We tried the lower powered of the two. Both are mated to a fivespeed manual gearbox which again makes motorway journeys less than ideal as they could benefit from a longer gear for better refinement and economy.

The engine is 'tried and tested' which means it's a little long in the tooth and needs working to get the best from it. Go with the 87PS unit and you'll see 62mph appear on the clocks in 12.5 seconds on the way to a top speed of 110mph. In comparison, the 100PS engine's numbers are 11.5s and 125mph.

The ADAM incorporates a 'floating' roof which is visually disconnected from the body and which works particularly well with two-tone colour schemes.

It looks like no other Vauxhall but still incorporates a bunch of existing styling cues such as the Astra's wing-shaped chrome grille bar and the blade shape in the lower doors.

Like MINI, Vauxhall is looking to appeal to the customer's sense of individuality in the sheer amount of colour combinations and materials. Wheels range from 16 inches in size for entry-level cars and there are 17-inch options further up the range.

Unlike many cars which offer striking exterior designs but an interior that betrays a sudden curtailment of development budget, the cabin of the ADAM is, if anything, even bolder than the exterior. There's extensive use of body-coloured trim inserts, not only on the dashboard but also reaching along the centre console and onto the steering wheel and these can give the interior a real riotous personality. You can even swap them out for a different colour or finish if you get bored.

A seven-inch touch screen interface is the big point of interest from a technological perspective. It's both iPhone and Android compatible and can access internet-downloaded apps.

Where specified, the navigation and infotainment controls are all marshalled by the touch screen. There's even a choice of headlining, including an LED-lit starlight roof trim.

The exterior colours include 'I'll be Black', 'Papa don't Peach', 'Purple Fiction', 'James Blonde', 'Saturday White Fever' and 'Buzz Lightgreen'.

Trims

The ADAM has three trim levels, JAM (fashionable/colourful), GLAM (elegant/sophisticated) and SLAM (racy/sporty) and both 1.4-litre engines are available with all three trim levels.

JAM opens with air conditioning, a CD DAB radio with USB, AUX-in and Bluetooth, a leather trimmed steering wheel with deco elements, cruise control and infotainment control. Go for the GLAM and there's electronic climate control, front & rear LED lights, a fixed glazed sunroof and an exterior chrome pack. SLAM weighs in with 17-inch alloy wheels, Morrocana sports seats, and a two tone roof and darkened rear glass.

The latest generation ESP system is standard on all ADAMs and it also includes a Hill Start Assist function. That wonderful star-effect roof and a heated steering wheel are options that differentiate the Vauxhall from the run of the mill city car contenders and these surprise and delight features are key in a market that's not always led fully by upfront pricing.

Talking of which, prices for the 1.4-litre models open at just over £11,500 and top out at little over £14,000. What's more, the options prices have been kept very reasonable so should you really want to stamp your own impression on the car, it won't cost you the earth nor destroy the residual value of the car.

Unless, that is, you go for a distinctly questionable colour combination!

Right, pay attention here because things get a little more involved.

You remember I said there were two versions of the 1.4-litre engine. I lied. Only a little but there are in fact four. Each version of the 1.4-litre is available in either a standard guise or as an ecoFLEX version with Stop/Start. This clearly has the biggest impact on emissions.

Vauxhall reckons there are over a million different combinations of options – it's a car without parallel. Remember, there's something about coolness which involves taking yourself quite seriously and not everybody wants to do that with their car.

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Nothing better for off-road

By Graham Breeze

The latest Toyota Land Cruiser is built of strong stuff and will do just about anything you ask – but there's a price to pay.

The Land Cruiser is backed by over 60 years of all-wheel-drive engineering and lives up to its reputation for toughness and go-anywhere ability. But you get what you pay for and the model on test would cost a hefty £55,020.

The Invincible with a four cylinder diesel, three litre engine and full-time four wheel drive came with a five speed automatic gearbox and checked in at £52,960 but a safety pack and metallic paint pushed the price up another £2,000.

It's hard not to be impressed by the stur-

dy looks and impressive cabin though and if you've got that sort of disposable cash the Land Cruiser is a pretty good alternative in competitive sector.

You get the feeling that the Land Cruiser is happier off-road and it's probably not as agile as some of the competition on-road and is a nightmare to park on busy streets.

It has a low ratio gearbox and lockable centre differential for improved traction.

But the test car was completely at home on the motorway and a pleasure to take on a long journey. There's a fair amount of lean in bends and the car does bounce around on rough surfaces though.

You need to be pretty mobile to even get in and out because there's a high driving position, which means visibility is great when behind the wheel. A superb rear-view camera is a real bonus for reversing into those tight spaces – you need all the help you can get.

It's a practical car too and is highly adaptable from one to seven seats. For example when seating four, the middle seat of the second row can be stowed to allow more elbow room.

The blind spot warning system is a real bonus with a monitoring system in place when you indicate to change lanes using radars in the door mirrors. If it senses a car a symbol flashes in the door mirror, changing to an audible warning if you get too close.

The Land Cruiser is a safe option with seven airbags, active front head restraints and cruise control. And you won't break in easily either with deadlocks, an alarm system and glass break sensors meaning the model is as secure as it gets.

You get hill-start control, downhill assist



'A superb rear-view camera is a real bonus for reversing into those tight spaces – you need all the help you can get.'

control, limited slip differential, 4-wheel active height control, crawl control, multi-terrain options and smart energy stop-start function.

There's dusk sensing headlights, rain-sensing wipers, auto-dimming rear-view mirror along with front and rear parking sensors.

Rear seat passengers aren't forgotten with an entertainment system, heated seats and individual climate controls.

Cheaper models in the range get climate

control, alloy wheels and Bluetooth but expect to pay a premium if you want leather, Sat-Nav or Bluetooth connectivity.

The test model had a top speed of 109mph and reached 62mph in 11seconds. Fuel consumption reflects the size with 34.9mpg on the combined cycle and CO2 emissions are high at 213g/km.

The Land Cruiser would not be my first choice in this sector but if you need to use the vehicle to it's full off-road capacity you won't find anything better.



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Teenager latest to sign for Brummies

TEENAGE hot-shot Alex Wilson is the latest new signing for Birmingham's return to racing next year.

Wilson, aged 16, is highly rated by stand-in boss Phil Morris who is putting the Perry Barr side together for the club's new era which starts in March.

He was rider of the year for Sheffield's Tiger Cubs development side last season and now feels ready to make the step up to regular National League racing.

Said Morris: "He's a very level headed lad with a good family backing him and I'm again confident he will do a good job for the Brummies."

"I'm sure people will have questions about tracking three riders new to the National League but with my connections and benefit of knowledge built up working with the British youth set up I feel this trio of riders will more than hold their own against other NL teams."

Wilson joins Adam Ellis, Tom Perry, Zach Wajtknecht and Harvie Banks – son of former Hackney rider Trevor Banks – in the Perry Barr side for the new season.

"It's very important that the bottom end of the team is right," said Morris.

Fans urged to snap up tickets

APPLICATION forms for season tickets have been sent out to supporters ahead of Birmingham's return to the tapes in 2015.

The club says any commercial interest in sponsorship or suggestions from fans will be very much welcomed.

Meanwhile, a form is being made available for supporters making new applications for season tickets. Supporters will be able to download the form online and return it via post to: Birmingham Speedway, PO Box 5267, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 2BP.

The Brummies are returning to the track in search of title glory just months after their future was under serious threat.

Geddes' golden goal goes global



Sean Geddes scores his "rabona" goal

A FACTORY worker from the Black Country became an internet sensation with a wonder goal seen by millions of football fans across the world.

Former Walsall and Stourbridge player Sean Geddes netted one of the goals of the season with his 'rabona' effort against Barrow.

The 22-year-old from West Bromwich wrapped his right foot around the back of his left leg to chip the keeper from the edge of the penalty area.

Now at Worcester City, Geddes was also part of the longest penalty shoot-out in

Football

FA Cup history. He was on target both in the regulation time and from the spot, in the epic 14-13 second round defeat against League One Scunthorpe. He had previously struck in the shock first round defeat of former winners Coventry City.

Footage of the goal shown by Worcester City through Youtube had 5,000 views in the first 10 hours of going online, going global soon after.

Geddes works as a lathe turner at the

engineering firm A&M EDM in Smethwick which makes Formula One and aircraft parts. He said: "I couldn't believe it, it is mad how people have suddenly picked up on it," he said.

"I have got a friend in Norway and he said you are all over the TV."

Worcester City FC director Rich Widdowson added it had helped to put the club on the map and knew it would be a sensation.

"When you saw it you knew it was a great goal," he said. "We thought it was going to be seen global once it got out."

"It has been the talk of the club," he said.

Kettle on the boil to earn points for Yeltz

Halesowen Town 2 Skelmersdale United 0

CENTRAL defender Joel Kettle struck twice within the first four minutes against league leaders Skelmersdale to maintain Halesowen's impressive run of form.

Manager John Hill was delighted with another clean sheet as his confident squad passed another big test with flying colours.

"We learned from meeting Skelmersdale in our first game of the season and pressed them high up the pitch as planned and then protected our lead," he said.

Kettle rose to head Halesowen ahead with the first chance of the game in the second minute from an Aaron Griffiths corner.

Shell-shocked Skelmersdale's defence switched off again as the Yeltz soon doubled their lead after just four minutes when Kettle capitalised to slot home after Ben Haseley's initial shot was saved by goalkeeper Zac Hibbert.

Curled

Valter Fernandes and Connor McCarthy both hit efforts wide for the visitors but the Yeltz kept up the work-rate to protect their lead with Haseley and Griffiths going close at the start of the second period.

Skelmersdale's Fernandes was sent off in the 69th minute for a second bookable offence. Kenny Strickland curled a 79th free-kick into the side netting for the 10 men and Halesowen substitute Neil MacKenzie wasted an 81st minute free-kick awarded in the opposition's penalty area. Skelmersdale's afternoon worsened

Football

when Robert Bodie was also dismissed in the 86th minute for another foul on Griffiths.

Whitby 1 Stourbridge 0

STOURBRIDGE returned from Yorkshire empty-handed after a stunning injury time strike from Steven Snaith earned Whitby Town a last-gasp victory.

Snaith curled an unstoppable shot into the top corner beyond Dean Coleman to condemn the Glassboys to their second successive defeat on the road and to give the home side their first win in six games.

The hosts shaded the first half and could have taken an early lead through James Brown who struck the woodwork, before Snaith fired narrowly wide.

The visitors also came close to breaking the deadlock but George Bowerman's goal-bound effort was cleared off the line.

With the game drifting towards a draw, Snaith let fly with a curling effort from the left edge of the box.

The defeat sees Gary Hackett's men slip to 10th in the Evo-Stik Premier Division table.

Veteran shows there's still Hope – at age of 60



Lindsay Chilton, aged 60, player/manager of Hope Tavern FC with sons Jason, 26 and Lee Chilton, 29

THE Dudley & Cradley Heath League has changed a lot in the past 45 years and, remarkably, one man has witnessed it all.

Veteran left winger Lindsay Chilton is not only the manager, but also continues to turn out every Sunday for Hope Tavern in the Premier Division – at the ripe old age of 60!

"Football is my life – I can't give it up," said the part-time cleaner, of Netherton, Dudley. "My advice to

anyone looking to follow in my footsteps is to look after yourself and to carry on playing. I'm naturally fit because I watch what I eat and I don't drink or smoke."

"I have been with the Dudley & Cradley Heath League since the 1969-70 season, when I was 15 years old, back when there were nine divisions. We now have two divisions."

Lindsay, a Tottenham fan, has turned out for a number of teams

over the years but has remained loyal to his local league. Lindsay and his two sons, Lee and Jason, all scored in Tavern's recent 12-1 thrashing of Sedgley White Lions in the Ray Turley Memorial Trophy.

Now Chilton senior has set his side the task of winning all eight competitions they are vying for this season, having revealed that a few years ago he won all five competitions with Bush Athletic.

Heathens skipper takes it to the Max

TALENTED teenager Max Clegg has moved from reserve to captain and No.1 of Cradley Heath Speedway in the space of two seasons.

The 17-year-old has been unveiled as the man to lead the Heathens into the defence of their National League title and a switch of home track to Perry Barr.

Clegg joins 16-year-old Nathan Greaves in the top two of the side – and both were in the reserve positions when they won the league in 2013.

Heathens boss Will Pottinger said: "It's what the club is all about, we have seen these two lads develop as league title winners and we now have our two reserves from 2013 as our top two riders."

"Max and Nathan are well liked by everyone and we are delighted to have them leading our challenge next season. I'm very satisfied with the way the team has come together."

Clegg joins Greaves and new signings Mike Neale, Ellis Perks and Luke Harris at the club and he says it's a major honour for him to be captain of the famous club.

"From the moment I first joined Cradley I've always wanted to be a No.1 for them," he said.

Speedway teams are welcomed

THE 2015 British Speedway National League will have 10 clubs after new applicants Birmingham, Eastbourne and Rye House were welcomed at the league's AGM in Rugby.

Reigning champions Cradley Heath have been approved to defend their title after switching home meetings to Perry Barr.

National League 2015: Birmingham, Buxton, Cradley Heath, Coventry, Eastbourne, Kent, King's Lynn, Mildenhall, Rye House, Stoke; National League knockout cup draw: Round 1 Rye House v Stoke, King's Lynn v Mildenhall; Round 2 (starting in May): Kent v Coventry, Birmingham v Eastbourne, Rye House or Stoke v Cradley, King's Lynn or Mildenhall v Buxton; National League Riders' Championship: Rye House, September 2015; National League Pairs: King's Lynn, date tbc; National League Fours: Coventry, date tbc.



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Geddes goes global
with wonder strike
Page 35

Hope and glory
Veteran Lindsay still
pulling on boots at 60
Page 35



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Bid for three on the trot is in vain

Moseley Old Oak 19
Stourbridge Lions 10
LIONS aimed to make it three in a row for the first time this season with a tough trip to third-placed Moseley Oak.

Enforced absences meant there was a debut for James St Aubyn at hooker and a first full game of the season for Sam Strangward.

The game started badly for the Lions with the experienced and heavy home pack driving to the line and then scoring out wide on the left through the full-back.

The Lions survived heavy pressure and the score remained at the end of the first half. Sam Wilson, who otherwise had a fine game, missed a penalty chance to reduce the arrears.

For the first half of the second period, Lions pressed without joy and the home side scored first, a somewhat controversial, unconverted, try.

Within five minutes, Lions were back in it. Oak's 10 was binned for pulling back a Lions player. Finally, from a scrum close to the Oaks line Meakin drove other for a deserved try, converted by Wilson.

The next score was from Oaks when the Lions lost focus and again the No 8 was left to power over from close in for a converted score and a 19-10 lead.

Four players sent to sin bin

Old Hales 14 **Longton 8**
HALES overcame four yellow cards at various stages of the game to record a much-needed victory – after the visitors had taken the lead.

Longton made their advantage count after the temporary loss of Tom Dempsey, going 3-0 up with a penalty.

Carl Robinson was the next to go, but Luke Smith did go over for a try, converted by Chris Hopper.

Hopper added another conversion to debutant Dave Wakefield's try before both Andy Robinson and Andy Holloway were sent from the field to leave Old Hales with 13 players.

With a few minutes left to play, Longton scored a well worked try to reduce the arrears. Hales meet second placed Nuneaton away on Saturday, January 3, kick off at 2pm.

Deadly duo's absence a big blow to Wolves

Football

THE African Cup of Nations will pose problems for many clubs in England's top two divisions next month – with Wolves among them.

Mali duo Bakary Sako and Nouha Dicko have been directly responsible for almost half of Wolves's league goals this season, so their possible absence will be a big blow to the Molineux men.

The return of the Dicko/Sako combination against Brighton just before Christmas was a stark reminder of just how below-par Wolves have been while the pair have been separated. While Wolves' late equaliser,

when it finally arrived, came courtesy of skipper Danny Batth after Darren Bent's first-half header, it was Sako's endeavour and Dicko's threat that had worn the weary Seagulls down.

How Wolves have missed Dicko since the hamstring injury he picked up on international duty with Mali almost two months ago. Until the welcome victory at Sheffield Wednesday, Wanderers had failed to win a single game he had missed. Conversely,

when Dicko has played, Wolves have lost just twice in 14 matches and is the sort of player who gets the best out of those around him. Not least his buddy Sako.

Again, it cannot be by pure chance that the flying winger has suffered a slight dip in form without his compatriot alongside him.

He's not the only one to have struggled, of course, but Sako is the player Wolves look to as their match-winner and when he's off-colour so, generally, are Wanderers.

Boss Kenny Jackett said of the pair: "They do combine very well and one can spark off the other. When they are together

there is a good chemistry." But he admits his side will be tested by the African Cup of Nations, which starts in Morocco on January 17.

Jackett said: "Bakary is a player we are going to miss in January and there is the possibility of Nouha going as well – we know that.

"It's about making sure that along the front line we've got as many possibilities as we can have.

"The good thing is that the transfer window is opening during that period and we have the time to do something about it."

Weaver nets two for Town

Tipton Town 3 **Rochester 1**
WITH Tipton desperate to find a performance to re-instate some long-lost confidence to carry them into the second half of the season, this encounter loomed large as a 'must win' game.

They began positively – a very early opening arriving for Kyle Shepherd from Simon Badiane's inviting cross, only for the former's powerful header to whistle past the visitors' post. But Town fell behind in the 10th minute, Ryan Baker crashing in an effort off the underside of the bar, leaving Town to do it the hard way as they moved off the foot of the Midland Football League Premier Division.

It took until the 78th minute for Tipton to draw level through Steve Weaver and the same player put his side's nose in front soon after from the penalty spot.

Shepherd profited from tremendous work by substitute Sean Pugh to notch the 82nd minute winner.

Tipton might well have even scored again in the 88th minute when Shepherd's effort avoided the flailing hands of Froggatt and also the outstretched boot of Pugh.

Hosts drop to foot of table

Team Dudley 2 **Wyrley 4**
TEAM Dudley replaced Wyrley at the foot of West Midlands Division One.

James Hawthorne deflected past his own keeper to give Wyrley the lead and minutes later it was 2-0.

Mitch Blackham hit a second-half double, but Wyrley scored two in the last nine minutes to take the points.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, January 1

PATCHED-UP DK FALL TO DEFEAT

Scunthorpe 51 DK 5

DEPLETED DK travelled to Scunthorpe with a team ravaged by injuries and illness.

On the eve of the game, captain Ed Parry barely had 12 fit bodies but managed to scrape together a squad of 18.

DK kicked off playing up a slope and with the sun in their eyes and a stiff breeze was blowing across the pitch. It was DK who dominated the early exchanges. However, after 10 minutes Scunthorpe began to ease their way into the game.

As in previous weeks, the game was riddled with penalties. The home team opened their account after 12 minutes when they turned over DK possession which resulted in centre Ash Dibden crossing for an unconverted try.

Advantage

DK's resolute defence was eventually breached in the 18th minute when full back Steve Johnson scored underneath the posts. He duly added the extra points.

Following yet another penalty, DK failed to retreat the obligatory 10 metres.

Fly half Tom Foster took advantage of the extra yardage and took the quick tap penalty and crossed for a try converted by Steve Johnson.

DK made a change to their front row with Danny Richards replacing Russ Gauden.

The patched up DK team carried on defending manfully and it took the home team until just before half-time to increase their lead when prop Jack Leaning

Rugby

forced his way over. The home team constantly refused kicks at goal leading to scrummage but DK refused to buckle. In the 55th minute Scunthorpe reversed their tactics and following yet another penalty, elected to kick for goal. Steve Johnson added the three points.

In the 63rd minute the home side extended their lead when young flanker Si Fisher crossed for a try. DK then enjoyed a 10-minute purple patch and following a lineout, second row Edlyn Serge forced his way over for an unconverted try.

In the gathering darkness of the final 10 minutes, DK threw caution to the wind, which led to mistakes. Scunthorpe took full advantage and ran in a further three tries. Steve Johnson was successful with two of the conversions.

DK 0 Old Patesions 67

The Development team took on Old Pats after losing several players to the First XV. They were faced with a huge challenge, but despite their spirit and ceaseless tackling it became somewhat of a procession.



DK's try scorer Edlyn Serge is collared during a surge towards the Scunthorpe posts

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